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**NEWS
RELEASE**

05/22/2021

26th Traffic Fatality

Date: 05/21/21

Time: 9:26 PM

Location: 8100 Gateway East and 1200 Lomaland

1 Vehicle: 2018 Silver Kia Forte, TX MSL4507

1 Driver: 26-year old Acosta, Jhair Hassim, 9500 North Loop, El Paso, Tx 79907

2 Vehicle: 2009, Red Kawasaki, Ninja, TX 022J4W

2 Driver: 36-year old, Chavez, Ruben Jr., 461 Oakhurst Ln, Horizon, Tx 79928

(Deceased)

Officers with the Special Traffic Investigators Unit responded to Gateway East and Lomaland to assist Mission Valley Patrol with a traffic fatality. Initial reports were of a pedestrian collision, but the investigation determined that two vehicles were involved. Preliminary investigation revealed that Unit 1 (2018 Kia Forte) traveled Eastbound at the 8100 block of Gateway East in the right lane. Unit 2 (2009 Kawasaki Ninja) was stopped at the red traffic signal also in the right lane. Unit 1 continued on Gateway East and collided with Unit 2. The driver of Unit 2 was separated from his motorcycle and died at the scene from his injuries.

The driver of Unit 1 (Acosta, Jhair Hassim) was taken into custody at the scene and later charged with Intoxication Manslaughter and Possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (cocaine). Acosta was booked into the county jail on a \$156,000 bond.

This is the 26th traffic fatality this year compared to 30 at this time last year.

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Media Contact: Sergeant Robert Gomez
Public Information Officer
(915) 212.4037