



# Huntington Beach Police Department

2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

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Julian Harvey, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**Prepared by:** Jennifer Carey, Public Information Officer

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## Fatal Traffic Collision – Beach Boulevard and Liberty Drive

On Monday, May 31, 2021, at approximately 5:58 p.m., the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) responded to a traffic collision in the southbound lanes of Beach Boulevard north of Liberty Drive, involving a 2008 white Chevrolet Tahoe and a 1975 black Honda motorcycle.

Upon arrival, officers located the motorcycle rider, 26-year old Chanel Garcia from Newport Beach, lying in the roadway with significant injuries. She was transported by ambulance to a local trauma center in critical condition. Today, June 4, 2021, she unfortunately succumbed to her injuries.

The driver of the Tahoe, 26-year old Christopher Johnstone from Costa Mesa, remained at the scene and cooperated with officers. He was investigated for driving under the influence of drugs and was subsequently arrested for suspicion of DUI.

Based on the preliminary investigation, circumstances suggest the Tahoe was behind the motorcycle while they both traveled south on Beach Boulevard. The motorcycle slowed for a traffic signal; however, the Tahoe failed to yield and collided with the rear of the motorcycle.

The collision investigation is ongoing and being conducted by the HBPD Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT). Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or the events leading up to it is encouraged to contact HBPD Traffic Investigator D. Demetre at (714) 536-5670, or Investigator V. Rattanchandani at (714) 536-5663.