



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



Media Relations Office
Bill Proffitt
Mike Puetz

Voice 727-893-7550
Fax 727-893-7773
Media Line 727-893-7878

For Immediate Release

January 23, 2012

Officer's Cruiser Struck While Investigating Serious Injury Accident

At about 3:00 a.m. this morning, officers responded to a serious injury accident at Gandy Blvd and I-275. A Chrysler PT Cruiser had been involved in a single car accident when it veered off the road and struck a traffic signal control box on east bound Gandy Blvd.

St. Petersburg Police Officer John Martini, 44, had arrived on the scene of the accident and was exiting his police cruiser when a 2004 silver Toyota Corolla operated by Kimberly M. Argue, W/F, 10/18/85, struck the rear of his cruiser.

Argue then drove away from the scene and was subsequently pursued by an FHP Trooper who was assisting officers at the accident site.

Argue was stopped about a mile east of the accident scene and was later charged with DUI and Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Injuries.

Officer Martini was transported to Edward White Hospital for treatment, but was later released.

The female passenger in the Chrysler PT Cruiser involved in the original accident was transported to Bayfront Medical Center in critical condition. The driver of the car suffered less severe injuries and was transported to Northside Hospital.

Traffic Homicide investigators are following up on that accident and will be releasing additional detail later today.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

####