



**ST PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAFFIC SECTION
MAJOR INCIDENT REPORT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

INCIDENT: Police Cruiser Crash

REPORT# 2011-38417

LOCATION: 1000 block of 40th Street South

DATE: June 25, 2011

TIME: 2124 hours

INVESTIGATOR: Officer Michael Jockers (Van1)

SYNOPSIS:

Members of the St. Petersburg Police Department were actively engaged in a pursuit in reference a shooting (#11-38414). Officer P. Etcheson was operating marked cruiser #P2444 and was not in the pursuit. He and his partner, Officer V. Trubilla were stopped at the stop sign, facing west on 10th Avenue North at 40th Street. The suspect vehicle passed their location, southbound on 40th Street with the first police vehicle right behind it. The second police vehicle in the pursuit, #P2836, was being operated by Officer J. VanHouten. Officer VanHouten was following at a safe distance since he was calling the pursuit in via the radio. Officer Etcheson began moving out onto 40th Street as Officer VanHouten neared the intersection. Officer VanHouten swerved to avoid the front of Officer Etcheson's cruiser, and lost control of his own vehicle. Officer VanHouten's vehicle began sliding counter-clockwise off the east side of 40th Street. After leaving the street, Officer VanHouten's cruiser struck a chain link fence, two street signs and a fire hydrant, before flipping over and coming to rest on the south curb line of 11th Avenue South.

Officer VanHouten was transported to Bayfront Medical Center where he was treated and released.

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.