



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

**INCIDENT:** Serious Injury Crash

**REPORT#** 2011-15660

**LOCATION:** 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 37<sup>th</sup> Street

**DATE:** March 17, 2011

**TIME:** 1820 hours

**INVESTIGATOR:** Officer Michael Jockers (Van1)

**SYNOPSIS:**

A 2006 PSTA bus was stopped in the northbound lane of 37<sup>th</sup> Street, waiting at a red light at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. The bus was being driven by Darlene M. Seay (B/F, 12/17/1966, 7800 Belcher Road #108, Pinellas Park) and there were two passengers, Cynthia Howard (B/F, 08/05/1956, 3480 32 Avenue North #205, St. Pete) and Richard Hunter (W/M, 06/10/1934, 2382 Granada Circle West, St. Pete).

A 2006 Saturn, FL tag 7861VU, being driven by Mike P. Gawthrop (W/M, 06/14/1960, 4445 Burlington Avenue North, St. Pete) was westbound on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in the curb lane. Four children were also riding in the Saturn. Jezmeralda Hodges (B/F, 03/17/2000) was in the right front seat and Malik Hodges (B/M, 12/16/2003), Aaliyah Hodges (B/M, 11/16/2004) and Destiny Hodges (B/F, 12/29/2001), all of 736 13 Avenue North #2W, St. Pete, were across the rear seat right to left.

The northbound light changed to green and the PSTA bus proceeded forward. Just prior to the bus entering the westbound curb lane, the Saturn drove straight through the red light and into the path of the bus. The front of the bus impacted both left side doors of the Saturn. The Saturn was spun onto the northwest curb and slightly impacted a hurricane proof light pole before coming to rest. The PSTA bus drove off the west curb line of 37<sup>th</sup> Street and ran into the side of 3711 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North causing minor damage to the side of the building.

Seay and Hunter were transported to St. Anthony's hospital with minor injuries. Howard was uninjured. Jezmeralda Hodges, Malik Hodges and Aaliyah Hodges were all transported to All Children's Hospital with minor injuries. Mike Gawthrop and Destiny Hodges were transported to Bayfront Medical Center in serious condition.

**CHARGES:** Pending

**ALCOHOL INVOLVED:** No

**NEXT OF KIN NOTIFIED:** Yes for all the injured parties.

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.