

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | July 1, 2023

***Updated* Cass County Fatal Crash- 19th Ave & 9th St E West Fargo**
Name Release

What: Three vehicle fatal crash

Where: 19th Ave & 9th St E West Fargo

When: June 28, 2023 at 9:23pm

Road Conditions: Dry pavement

Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy

Crash Involvement: Town & Country drove through red light striking a Chevy Cobalt

Type of Crash: Right angle

Agencies Involved: West Fargo Police Department, West Fargo Fire ND, Sanford Ambulance, and Highway Patrol.

Vehicle No. 1: 2010 Chrysler Town and Country

Driver No. 1: Sabastijan Tahirovic, 30, Fargo, ND- Injured

Restraints: Not belted

Charges: Criminal vehicular homicide, driving under the influence-Drugs, driving under suspension, possession of controlled substance-Marijuana, and driving without liability insurance

Vehicle No. 2: 2006 Chevy Cobalt

Driver No. 2: Saphyre Johnson, 28, from Bemidji, MN- Fatal

Restraints: In use

Charges: None

Vehicle No. 3: 2023 Dodge Ram 2500

Driver No. 3: Unoccupied

NARRATIVE:

At 9:23PM the Chevy Cobalt was driving south on 9th St S crossing the intersection with 19th Ave E. The Chevy Cobalt had a green light while crossing. The 2010 Town and Country was driving west on 19th Avenue E and approached the intersection of 9th St. S at a high speed. The light was red when the Chrysler Town and Country entered the intersection striking the Chevy

Cobalt on the driver's door. The Chevy Cobalt left the roadway striking the unattended Dodge Ram and came to rest in the Blarney Stone parking lot. The Chrysler Town and Country came to rest on the curb 19th Ave facing east.

Saphyre Johnson, the driver of the Chevy Cobalt, was treated for her injuries before being pronounced deceased on scene.

Sabastijan was treated on scene and transported to the Sanford Medical Center for continued care for his serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Charges for Sabastijan include: **criminal vehicular homicide, driving under the influence-Drugs, driving under suspension, possession of controlled substance-Marijuana, and driving without liability insurance.**

There were no passengers for both the Chevy Cobalt and Chrysler Town and Country. The Dodge Ram was unattended at the time of the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the Highway Patrol.

For More Information Contact:

Sgt. Nathaniel King
NKing@nd.gov