



MEDIA CONTACT

Jimmy Lee
Chief – Fox Lake Police Department
847.587.3961 office

WEBSITE:
www.foxlake.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/6/2020 **Conclusion of Fatal Traffic Crash Investigation**

On Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 7:23 p.m., the Fox Lake Police responded a single vehicle, double fatal motor vehicle collision on Illinois Route 173, West of Converse Avenue Fox Lake Illinois. The vehicle involved in the collision was being driven by Theo Owens and prior to the collision he was actively fleeing from a Genoa City Wisconsin Police Officer. The pursuit was initiated in Genoa City following the officer's attempt to stop the vehicle for a traffic violation. The pursuit continued based on Mr. Owens's intentional felony conduct, based on Wisconsin Statutes.

As the pursuit entered Illinois, a Spring Grove Illinois Police Officer came to the assistance of the pursuing officer and engaged in the pursuit behind the Genoa City Officer. Both officers were operating fully marked squad cars. During the course of the pursuit both officers had activated the vehicle equipped emergency lights and siren. No physical contact was made between the police vehicles or the fleeing Toyota.

The vehicle being operated by Mr. Owens was a 1994 Toyota Camry, and he had two female passengers in the vehicle at the time the pursuit was initiated. As a result of the collision, Mr. Owens and one of his passengers died. The second passenger was seriously injured during the collision.

Fox Lake Police Officers were not involved in the pursuit, but responded to the collision site to provide assistance and begin the investigation. Based on the severity of the injuries, damage to the fleeing vehicle, extensive crash scene area, and police involvement in the pursuit prior to the collision, the Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) was activated to assist in the investigation and lead the traffic crash reconstruction.

At the conclusion of the investigation and traffic crash reconstruction, the facts revealed were reviewed by the Lake County, Illinois State's Attorney's staff. It has been determined that the criminal actions of and criminal fault for these tragic events rest solely with Mr. Owens. Mr. Owens had the opportunity at all times prior to the collision to simply stop fleeing. The Genoa City Officer did not cause or contribute to cause the crash and was more than 600 feet behind the Toyota when Mr. Owen lost control of the vehicle and subsequently crashed. No criminal liability has been assigned to the police officers involved in the pursuit.

Pursuant to the Police the Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727/1-10), the Crash Reconstruction Report is available for review on-line at:

<https://www.foxlake.org/DocumentCenter/View/4309/Reconstruction-Report-MCAT-19-08304>

For further information contact Chief Jimmy Lee at (847) 587-3961

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About the Village of Fox Lake: The Village of Fox Lake (population 10,700) is located 55 miles northwest of downtown Chicago and 20 miles west of Waukegan, Illinois. Fox Lake is located in Lake and McHenry counties. The Village is located on the South Shore of Pistakee Lake, Nippersink Lake, and Fox Lake, three connected water bodies that form part of the Chain O'Lakes system.