



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



BICYCLIST STRUCK IN ANDERSON TOWNSHIP

Anderson Township, January 31, 2016 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports an injury auto crash involving a Jeep Grand Cherokee which struck a bicyclist on US 52 near Asbury Road in Anderson Township on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 3:54pm

Melinda N. Woodall, female, age 34 of Amelia was operating a 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee, westbound on US 52 approaching Asbury Road. Michael E. Prater, male, age 42, of Cincinnati was riding a road bicycle westbound on US 52 on the right shoulder, west of Asbury Road. As Mrs. Woodall approached Mr. Prater, Mrs. Woodall exited her lane of travel and partially entered the right shoulder, striking Mr. Prater. Mr. Prater was thrown from his bicycle and landed on the roadway. Mrs. Woodall fled the crash scene without stopping or attempting to give aid to Mr. Prater. Witnesses to the crash scene immediately called 911 and gave the vehicle description to the Hamilton County Communications Center which then broadcast the information to responding Sheriff's Units. At approximately 4:17pm, Cincinnati Police and Sheriff's Units located the Jeep, abandoned in the 1700 block of Sutton Road. Police and Sheriff's Units saturated the area in an attempt to locate the driver of the Jeep. A resident in the area was able to provide units in the area with a description of Mrs. Woodall who was then located a short distance away in the 1800 block of Sutton Road.

Mrs. Woodall was transported to Sheriff's District 5 and interviewed. Mrs. Woodall admitted to striking Mr. Prater and fleeing the scene. Mrs. Woodall was charged with one count of aggravated vehicular assault and leaving the scene of an auto accident causing injury. Mrs. Woodall was transported to the Hamilton County Justice Center to await arraignment.

Mr. Prater was transported to The University of Cincinnati Medical Center where he is listed in critical condition.

Mr. Prater was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. Mrs. Woodall was wearing her seat belt at the time of the crash. Speed and alcohol are not believed to have contributed to the crash. Drugs are believed to have contributed to the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Traffic Unit.

MEDIA CONTACT: MIKE ROBISON

Regular Business Hours: M - F 8 am - 4 pm, mrobison@sheriff.hamilton-co.org Office (513) 946-6428

Evening or Weekend Hours: Mobile (513) 235-9952

Mugshot Requests: Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org or call (513) 946-6230