

# SAN BERNARDINO POLICE DEPARTMENT

# PRESS RELEASE

Chief Jarrod Burguan



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For more Information call: Sergeant Vicki Cervantes

Phone number: (909)388-4912

Release Date: 10-06-15

Issuing Employee: Sgt. Cervantes

Type of Case: Fatal Traffic Collision

Date/Time occurred: 10-05-15/11:20pm

Date/Time reported: 10-05-15/ 11:20

Location of occurrence: 8<sup>th</sup> Street/ "E" Street, San Bernardino

## **DRIVER**

Name: Welch, Rachel

Age: 38 years

City of Residence: Westminster, CA

Hospital: N/A

## **SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT:**

On 10-06-15 at approximately 11:20pm San Bernardino police officers responded to the area of 8<sup>th</sup> Street/ "E" Street to investigate the report of a major injury traffic collision. Upon arrival officers found this to be a single vehicle into a wall.

Initial investigation indicates that Ms. Rachel Welch was driving a 1999 Chevrolet Lumina southbound on "E" Street at a high rate of speed. For unknown reasons, it appears that she lost control of her vehicle, which then veered left crossing over the northbound lanes. The vehicle then rolled onto the roof, continued sliding in a south/east direction until colliding into a wall on the south/east corner of the intersection. It does not appear as though Ms. Welch was wearing her seatbelt.

San Bernardino City Fire/Paramedics also responded to the scene where they extinguished a small vehicle fire, resulting from the collision. Ms. Welch sustained major injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

It was later discovered that Ms. Welch was on the phone with a San Bernardino police dispatcher moments before the collision reporting that a truck nearly drove her off of the road. She

*The best method to contact Lt. R. Lawhead is via email at [lawhead\\_ri@sbcity.org](mailto:lawhead_ri@sbcity.org) or (909)384-5738.*

*PO Box 1559, San Bernardino, CA 92401*

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told the dispatcher that the truck was travelling southbound “E” Street from 16<sup>th</sup> Street at a high rate of speed. Indications are that Ms. Welch was attempting to catch up to this truck prior to losing control of her vehicle.

Anybody with information on this collision is asked to contact Detective D. Peck at (909)384-5664.

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