

Public Works Truck Collision with Bicyclist Leaves One Critical

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia - Valdosta Police Department (VPD) Officers responded to the intersection of North Ashley Street and East Gordon Street for a traffic accident involving a pedestrian. Help was summoned about 10:50 a.m. on Thursday, March 7th. The Valdosta Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services also responded to provide first aid to the pedestrian. That pedestrian was transported to South Georgia Medical Center (SGMC) for treatment.

An investigation of the accident by the VPD Traffic Unit began immediately. Evidence at the scene was collected as the officer investigated. VPD Officers determined that a City of Valdosta Public Works truck was waiting at the intersection to turn north on North Ashley Street. The large truck began to turn right when the traffic light turned green. At the same time, a male (56) on a bicycle which was traveling west on East Gordon Street, approached the intersection on the passenger's side of the truck. At the same time the truck started to make a turn, the bicyclist, who was in the blind side of the Public Works Truck driver, began to attempt to cross North Ashley Street on East Gordon Street.

The truck driver could not see the bicyclist, which resulted in the truck striking and running over the bicyclist. The injured male (56) was transported to a hospital in Florida and is in critical condition.

The VPD indicates that there is a video of the incident circulating on social media. Due to the sensitivity and graphic nature of the video, the Valdosta Police Department does not endorse the release of this video.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who was involved in this accident," said Chief Leslie Manahan.

According to the VPD, the accident is still under investigation by the Valdosta Police Department Traffic Unit.

The public's help is requested. The VPD has requested that if you are a person with any information on this case or any other case, please contact the Valdosta Police Department at 229-242-2606, the crime tip line at 229-293-3091, or file a tip online at www.valdostacity.com/police-department/.



Proactive Law Enforcement results in 3 arrests and 26 traffic citations in Valdosta

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – Valdosta Police Department (VPD) conducted crime suppression law enforcement throughout the City of Valdosta on Wednesday, March 6th. VPD focused on areas where crime increases have been reported. Members of the VPD Command Staff, Investigations Bureau, Patrol Bureau, Narcotics Unit, Traffic Unit, K9 Unit, Power Squad, and School Resource Officers conducted foot patrols, and driver's license and safety checks, in the areas of McAfina Trail, University Drive, and the 1100 block of Old Statenville Road.

According to information released by the VPD, their proactive enforcement resulted in three (3) arrests and 26 traffic citations issued. VPD Detectives seized 3 firearms, including one that was stolen and another that had an illegal automatic switch on it. VPD Detectives also seized over 42 grams of marijuana.

Iam Lewis (19) was arrested for possession of a dangerous weapon (felony), theft by receiving stolen property (felony), and an unrelated arrest warrant in the 1100 block of Old Statenville Road.

Randy Lewis (36) was arrested for an active, unrelated arrest warrant in the 2400 block of Knox Drive.

Kayla Singletary (33) was arrested for an active, unrelated arrest warrant in the 2300 block of Melrose Drive.

VPD Chief Leslie Manahan commended officers when she stated, "This was outstanding, proactive teamwork by our entire department. This is part of our continual process to remove illegally possessed firearms and illegal narcotics from our community."

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39th Session CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
 The 39th Session of the Citizens Police Academy (CPA) will be held each **Thursday night**.
 April 4 - May 23
 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
SIGN UP TODAY!
 Officer Randall Hancock
 rhancock@valdostacity.com
 229-293-3090

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