



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**MEDIA RELEASE**

---



**DATE/TIME:** February 5, 2014 – 10:45 PM

**LOCATION:** 1205 Soquel Avenue

**TOPIC:** Collision – Suicide Investigation

**CASE NUMBER:** 14S-00908

---

**INFORMATION:**

On February 5, 2014, at approximately 10:45 PM, a collision occurred into the front of the historic Rio Theater, 1205 Soquel Avenue.

The collision involved a single vehicle that crashed through the front kiosk and glass front entrance of the Rio Theatre. The theater was closed at the time of the collision and there was no one inside the kiosk or lobby.

The vehicle traveled northbound on Seabright Avenue to the intersection of Soquel Avenue and then steered into the front of the theater. There was no attempt to slow or stop by the driver. Witnesses reported seeing the car driving erratically on southbound Highway 1 and Morrissey Blvd, just prior to the collision.

Witnesses reported the driver survived the collision and got out of the car. The driver then grabbed pieces of the glass debris and began stabbing himself in the neck and upper torso. The glass stuck an artery causing immediate and significant bleeding.

Officers arrived and attempted life saving measures on the driver. The driver was resisting the officer's attempt to provide first aid and stop the bleeding. Eventually the driver was able to be loaded into an ambulance and transported to Dominican Hospital. The driver was later pronounced dead at Dominican Hospital.

The driver did not appear to sustain life threatening or significant injuries from the impact of the actual collision. The self-inflicted stab wounds were significant and ultimately life-threatening. The police department is investigating this case as an act of suicide.

The vehicle was a white 1988 Mercury Tracer Hatchback. No other vehicles were involved, and no other persons were injured in the collision.

The driver is was a 34 year old male, Santa Cruz resident. The identity of the driver is being withheld at this time, pending the notification of family. The driver is known to the police department and has a history of drug, alcohol and theft related contacts.

**For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark**

**Phone: (831) 420-5815**

---

**To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995 or use our mobile iPhone and Android App**