



INDIANA BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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WILLIAM B. SIMMONS
Mayor

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Chief of Police

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It is with sadness and heartfelt sympathy that I inform our community of a tragedy that occurred this afternoon on Philadelphia Street. At approximately 2pm a vehicle vs. pedestrian crash occurred at the intersection of Philadelphia Street and 7th Street and resulted in two deaths. Your police department stands with everyone in grief and anger that this moment occurred. Horrifically, this is the second vehicle vs. pedestrian crash along our Philadelphia Street corridor resulting in two losses of life in the past 7 months. Both incidents are major investigations that involve multiple partners and require much time to fully and completely investigate. The March crash investigation is nearing, but has not reached, full closure. Today's investigation is active, will involve the expertise of several partner agencies, and will be thoroughly and professionally executed. We will not be releasing the names of those involved at this time, but that information will become public record when it is available for release.

At approximately 2pm this afternoon an Indigo bus impacted two pedestrians who were crossing the roadway at the intersection of Philadelphia Street and 7th Street. The bus was traveling west on Philadelphia Street at impact. The pedestrians were on the roadway at the intersection. The status of traffic signal, pedestrian cross signal, direction of pedestrian travel, vehicle speed and movements, operator activity and environmental conditions are all part of our active investigation and that information will also become public record when it is available for release.

As I said in March, our mission is to enhance the quality of life of everyone we serve - so one crash is too many and any loss of life is unacceptable to us. We are at our best when we can be proactive to prevent crashes and crime, but we are also committed to conducting thorough and professional investigations in pursuit of justice when neither is avoided. Nothing I will say can make this moment easier for everyone impacted. Nothing we have done or are prepared to do in furtherance of Philadelphia Street safety can bring back the lives that have been lost. We will continue to listen, we will continue to research safety enhancements, we will continue to deliver recommendations for engineering, we will continue to educate on traffic laws and safety measures, and we will continue to enforce traffic violations. We are fully committed to delivering community peace, safety, and comfort. Along with borough staff, borough council, and Mayor Simmons, we will continue being engaged with PennDOT to identify safety enhancements at our Philadelphia Street intersections.

We were assisted by Citizens Ambulance Service, Indiana Fire Association, Indiana County District Attorney's Office, Indiana County Sheriff's Department, Pennsylvania State Police, Indiana County Coroner's Office, Indiana Borough Public Works, and Alice Paul House staff. We ask everyone in our community to have conversations with your loved ones about safe driving and safety while crossing the streets. Be attentive. Be patient. Always be watching for each other.

We are grateful to everyone who assisted us today.