



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
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POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHET EPPERSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

TRAFFIC RELEASE

DATE & TIME **02/23/14 5:36 PM**

Bureau: **Field Services Bureau**

Authorized Supervisor: **Lt. Darin Spades**

Phone: **815-987-5896/815-987-5824**

Incident: **Traffic Fatality-500 Summit-Update**

MESSAGE

At approximately 0216 hours on Sunday, February 23, 2014, District 2 Patrol officers were dispatched to Summit and Greenwood to investigate a traffic crash. The preliminary investigation revealed that a gray Chevy Impala, driven by 20 year old Martel Ford, was northbound on Summit when Ford lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle struck a large tree near Summit and Greenwood fatally injuring the back seat passenger. The crash was a single car accident and the Impala was occupied by the driver, a front seat passenger, and a single occupant in the rear.

Rear seat passenger, Derrick E. Ellis (7/26/92) of Rockford, was pronounced dead at the scene. Ford and the front seat passenger were transported to local hospitals to be treated for their injuries. The front seat passenger' is in serious condition but initial reports are that his injuries are not life threatening. Impairment related to drugs/alcohol and speed appear to be contributing factors in the crash.

After reviewing the facts of the case with the Winnebago County States Attorney's office, Martel Ford (7/9/93) has been charged with the following offenses: DUI (Drugs), Aggravated DUI (involving Death) 3 counts, Driving on a Suspended License, Minor Drinking, Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident, and Operation of an Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Additional charges may be authorized at a later time.

Bond: No Bond (Felony charge, must be set by Judge)
Ford is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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