



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: April 10, 2026, at about 4:57 a.m.
Incident: 2026-488373
Location: 3500 West Thomas Road
Victim: Elijah Payton, 22-year-old male, deceased

UPDATE: April 11, 2026

The adult male motorcycle rider in this incident has been identified as 22-year-old Elijah Payton.

Sergeant Jen Zak
Public Affairs Bureau

Fatal Collision

Around 4:57 a.m., officers responded to the area of 35th Avenue and Thomas Road regarding a collision involving a motorcycle. When officers arrived on the scene they located the adult male motorcycle rider unresponsive. The Phoenix Fire Department arrived on the scene and pronounced the man deceased. The driver of the vehicle involved remained at the scene.

Detectives from the Vehicular Crimes Unit responded to assume the investigation and process the scene. Preliminary information indicates the driver of the motorcycle was northbound on 35th Avenue when he failed to stop for a red light at Thomas Road and collided into the vehicle that was attempting to clear the intersection making a left turn to go east on Thomas Road. The driver of the vehicle was evaluated for impairment; however, no signs were observed. Additional information related to this incident remains a part of the ongoing investigation.

Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez
Public Affairs Bureau