



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



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: October 7, 2024 just after 5:00 a.m.
Incident: 2024-1480295
Location: 400 North 79th Avenue
Victim: George Meletis, 59-year-old male, deceased

Early Morning Collision Leaves a Man Dead

(October 7, 2024): Phoenix police are investigating a fatal collision on private property that left one man dead and two others in the hospital.

Officers were called to a vehicle collision just after 5 a.m. in a city yard near 79th Avenue and Van Buren Street. When officers arrived, they found a man lying on the ground and suffering from obvious signs of trauma. Two other men were found inside a shuttle bus with non-life-threatening injuries. The fire department responded to treat the three men who are employed by the city's contracted transit provider. The two men found in the bus were taken to the hospital for treatment. The third man, later identified as 59-year-old George Meletis, died from his injuries on scene.

Detectives responded to investigate the collision and to speak with witnesses. Preliminary information suggests the shuttle bus was occupied by the two men, one in the driver seat and the other in the passenger compartment, when the driver took his foot off the brake. For unknown reasons, the shuttle bus accelerated forward causing the shuttle bus to collide with a parked car and run over Meletis. After the initial collision, the shuttle bus continued to accelerate and collided with a parked standard size bus, after which the shuttle bus came to rest. The standard size bus was unoccupied at the time of the collision.

The investigation remains active as detectives continue to process the evidence. A charging decision will be made once the investigation is complete.

Sergeant Phil Krynsky
Public Affairs Bureau