



HIGH POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

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Interim Chief of Police Curtis Cheeks III

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INCIDENT TYPE – TRAFFIC FATALITY (I-74 AT JOHNSON STREET)

HIGH POINT, NC – A man who lost control of a vehicle on I-74 died after he crashed into a guardrail. He was ejected from the vehicle and found at the bottom of a steep embankment.

On January 6, 2024 at about 11:30 p.m., High Point officers responded to a hit-and-run crash at Wendover Avenue and Penny Road. A witness gave officers a vehicle description and tag number.

A few minutes later, officers responded to another crash at I-74W and Johnson Street. They determined the suspect's vehicle was the same one involved in the hit-and-run crash on Wendover Avenue and Penny Road. No one was in the suspect's vehicle when officers arrived. Officers began to search for the suspect, identified as **Eric L. Morrison Jr. (B/M, 33 of High Point)**. A K-9 track led officers to a street near his home but he was not located.

On January 8, Morrison's family filed a missing person report.

On January 10, the High Point Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit searched areas near where the K-9 track ended. Rangers with High Point Parks & Recreation deployed a boat along a portion of Oak Hollow Lake. The High Point Police Department's Drone Team also assisted with searching the area.

Later that day, an individual who was part of a private search party searched the woods around the crash site and located a body at the bottom of a steep embankment, about 25 feet down. The man had a substantial head injury and was pronounced dead. He was identified as Morrison.

The High Point Police Department's Traffic Unit responded to investigate. Based on evidence at the scene, officers determined Morrison lost control coming up the exit ramp and ran off the side of the road. His vehicle hit the guardrail and he was ejected. Investigators determined that



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when he was ejected, his head hit part of the guardrail, killing him instantly. His body was found 75 feet away from where he hit the guardrail. His vehicle continued to travel about 250 feet up the road, where it hit another vehicle at the top of the ramp.

This is High Point's first traffic fatality of 2024.

The High Point Police Department remains committed to crime-fighting, community engagement, training, and professional policing. We will continue to collaborate with our community members and crime-fighting partners to promote a higher quality of life. Anyone with information about violent crime or illegal activity is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of High Point at 336-889-4000 or Download the P3 mobile app for IOS or Android.

Case Report Number(s): 2024-00669, 2024-00670 and 2024-00827

Press Release prepared by Victoria Ruvio

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