



## OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

### KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



DATE: 8-18-2016

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Updated information on PI Hit and Run

Crash COMPLAINT NUMBER: 16-140312

REPORTING OFFICER:

SUPERVISOR APPROVAL: Sgt. Ben Cammenga/ Sgt. Corey Luce

#### **UPDATE – AUGUST 26, 2016**

The Kent County Sheriff's Department confirms that Charles Driggers died on August 26, 2016. The Kent County Medical Examiner's Office will conduct an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. The Kent County Sheriff's Department has been in communication with the Kent County Prosecutor's Office about enhancing the criminal charges against Benjamin VanderPloeg if it is confirmed the death was caused by the accident.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> UPDATE**

The Kent County Prosecutor's Office has charged 49 year old Benjamin VanderPloeg of Grand Rapids with driving while license suspended causing serious injury and failing to stop at a serious injury accident in relation to this incident. Benjamin VanderPloeg is currently being held on \$200,000 bond at the Kent County Correctional Facility.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> UPDATE**

Investigators with the Kent County Sheriff's Office have located and seized the vehicle that was involved in this incident. The suspect driver has been arrested and lodged in the Kent County Correctional Facility on a felony charge related to this incident. The case will be forwarded to the Kent County Prosecutor's Office for a review of other criminal charges related to this case. The victim is 66 year old Charles Lewis Driggers. Mr. Driggers remains hospitalized in serious condition. No further information will be released until the suspect is arraigned.

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#### **ORIGINAL INFORMATION**

On 8-17-2016 at 2019hrs, Kent County Deputies and Cannon Twp. Fire/Rescue were dispatched to a PI Hit and Run accident on Cannonsburg Rd. East of Chauncey Ave, in Cannon Twp. County of Kent. Witnesses reported that a Bicyclist had been struck by a White Passenger Car. The suspect vehicle fled west bound on Cannonsburg Rd. Deputies investigated that the bicyclist was travelling west bound Cannonsburg Rd on the shoulder of the roadway. The 66yo male bicyclist was struck from behind by an unknown White Passenger Car also travelling westbound. The victim was transported by Aeromed to Spectrum BWH. The victim remains in critical condition. The incident remains under investigation.