



*Town of Wallingford, Connecticut*  
*Department of Police Services*

**WILLIAM J. WRIGHT**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

135 NORTH MAIN STREET  
WALLINGFORD, CT 06492-3718  
TELEPHONE (203) 294-2828

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Lieutenant Anthony DeMaio  
Traffic Division  
May 25, 2019 @ 7:50 PM

**Bicyclist Struck by Vehicle on South Turnpike Road in Wallingford**

The Wallingford Police Department Traffic Division is investigating a one-vehicle versus bicyclist collision that occurred on South Turnpike Road in Wallingford, approximately 175 feet north of its intersection with Toelles Road, immediately north of the North Haven Town Line. The incident was reported to Wallingford Police Communications via 911 on May 25, 2019 at approximately 2:57 PM.

The investigation, which is ongoing, revealed that the operator of a gray colored 2009 Honda Civic sedan, identified as Derek C. Fries, age 35, of Meriden, was traveling southbound on South Turnpike Road when the vehicle he was operating left the single southbound travel lane of South Turnpike Road and crossed over the double yellow center line. The vehicle then entered and crossed over the northbound travel lane where it struck one of two northbound bicyclists that were riding along the right hand shoulder and within the fog line. Upon being struck, the bicyclist became separated from the bicycle and was projected onto the driver's side hood, A-Pillar and windshield of the Honda Civic. The bicyclist was then carried a short distance by the vehicle before being projected over the guardrail and down an embankment along the eastern side of South Turnpike Road where he came to final rest in a wooded area.

Several witnesses were identified at the scene. These witnesses not only provided first aid, but also information about the offending vehicle's actions prior to striking the bicyclist.

The bicyclist has been identified as Donald A. Carrelli, age 37, of Milford, who was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital for treatment of life-threatening injuries. Carrelli was pronounced dead at Yale New Haven Hospital a short time later.

The operator of the Honda Civic, Derek C. Fries, was arrested and charged with the following:

53a-56b	Manslaughter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree with a Motor Vehicle
14-227a	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs
14-236	Failure to Drive in Proper Lane
21a-279(a)	Illegal Possession of Narcotics (Heroin)
21a-267	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Fries was released from police custody after posting a \$25,000 Surety Bond and was assigned a June 7, 2019 court date at G.A. 7 in Meriden.

Vehicular traffic was affected as this heavily traveled section of the roadway was closed for several hours to allow the Wallingford Police Department Traffic Division to reconstruct the collision. Anyone who witnessed this collision is encouraged to call Officer James Knowlton at 203-294-2818 or Lt. Anthony DeMaio at 203-294-2838.