



INGLEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

ONE MANCHESTER BOULEVARD / P.O. BOX 6500 INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90301

January 4, 2012

MOTORIZED BIKE COLLISION CAUSES EXTENSIVE INJURIES

The Inglewood Police Department responded to a traffic collision with injuries at 110th Street and Doty Avenue involving a “mini bike” on Monday evening. The incident began around 6 p.m. on January 2, 2012. The initial observations made by the officers indicated the collision involved a vehicle and a pedestrian. The injured subject was found unconscious and suffering from major head trauma. He was later identified as Gonzalo Vega, 24, of Modesto, California. Vega was transported to Harbor General UCLA hospital, where he is listed in critical, but stable condition.

The investigation revealed that Vega had been riding some type of modified motorized bike, which had been removed from the scene prior to their arrival. The bike was alternately described to officers as a moped, mini bike, or pocket bike. Vega apparently failed to stop for a posted stop sign and broadsided a vehicle traveling north on Doty Avenue. Vega was not wearing protective head gear and was operating a motorized vehicle with a suspended license. The bike reportedly did not have any lighting equipment. Moments after the collision, several subjects approached Vega and attempted to talk with him. Two of the subjects took the bike and walked away from the scene. Inglewood Police Department Traffic Investigators are seeking the whereabouts of the bike as it has significant evidentiary value for this investigation.

Pocket or mini bikes are unlawful to operate on city streets and mopeds have specific rules and regulations that must be followed for lawful operation, including proper lighting equipment. There has been a recent increase in reports of individuals riding these type of bikes and incidents of this nature are not uncommon.

Anyone in this area with information related to this incident is urged to contact the Inglewood Traffic Section at 310-412-5134.

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