



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**If this press release involves the charging, accusation or indictment of a criminal defendant, same is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*

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On Saturday January 17th at approximately 06:17pm, The Harrison Township Police Department was dispatched to the unit block of Banff Drive in reference to a motor vehicle that had crashed into a residence resulting in both the vehicle and residence being on fire. The initial investigation revealed the following:

A 2020 Hyundai Palisade SUV was traveling north on Banff Drive when, for an unknown reason, it quickly accelerated before striking a curb, travelling across two front yards and crashing into a residence on Banff Drive with enough force to go through the wall and into the residence's living room. As a result, a fire started and quickly engulfed the vehicle and the majority of the residence. The driver of the Hyundai, 72-year-old Thomas Hengel and his passenger, 61-year-old Lisa Hengel, both of Mullica Hill, ultimately succumbed to their injuries. The occupants of the residence were evacuated and unharmed.

The investigation is being conducted by Corporal Kevin McGowan and Patrolman Joseph Fiore, who are being assisted by the

Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office. Other assisting agencies included Harrison Township Fire District, Glassboro Fire District, Mantua Fire District, East Greenwich Fire District, Woolwich Fire Department, Pitman Fire Department, Greenwich Fire Department, Gloucester County EMS, Inspira Paramedics, Gloucester County HazMat, Gloucester County Fire Marshall's Office, Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office (Major Crimes Unit and Crime Scene Unit), Gloucester County Medical Examiner's Office, Mantua Township Police Department

Harrison Township Construction Office, Harrison Township Public Works Department and Tyler Mill Towing/Recovery.