ROHNERT PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

Brain Masterson, Director

PRESS RELEASE

DRIVER HITS CHILD IN A CROSSWALK WHILE READING TEXT MESSAGE

For Immediate Release
Monday, November 28, 2016 5:20 PM **Case# RP16-0004983**

Contact: Cmdr. Aaron Johnson (707) 584-2650 Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm

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ROHNERT PARK – On 11/28/2016 at approximately 3:45 PM, officers were on patrolling the area of Snyder Lane and Southwest Blvd when they were flagged down by a motorist stating a child had been struck by a car. Upon further investigation, officers found a 12 year old male who had been struck at the intersection of Snyder Lane and Capri Way. The driver of the vehicle was still on scene attending to the child.

During the investigation officers learned that the victim, a 12 year old male from Rohnert Park, was running west in the crosswalk across Snyder Lane from Rosana Way towards Capri Way. As he reached the number 2 lane of Snyder Lane, Sadie Sonntag from Petaluma was driving south on Snyder Lane in a Toyota Camry. Sonntag was not paying attention due to reading a text message and did not see the victim in the crosswalk. When Sonntag looked up, she was not able to stop and struck the victim. The impact caused the victim to roll up on the hood of the car and ultimately be thrown approximately 40 feet from initial impact.

The victim sustained a possible leg fracture as well as miscellaneous bumps and scrapes. He was transported to Sutter Hospital by ambulance for treatment. The victim's name will remain confidential due to him being a juvenile.

Sonntag remained on scene and was cooperative with the officers and the investigation. Alcohol was not a factor in this collision. Although this case is still being investigated, evidence shows that distracted driving was the cause of the collision.

The Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety wants to remind all motorists to focus 100% of their attention to the roadway and areas surrounding while operating a motor vehicle. Especially during the holidays when vehicle and pedestrian traffic will increase.