



## TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TEMPLE TERRACE OFFICER INJURED IN CRASH

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 9/22/10) – A Temple Terrace police officer was injured Tuesday night when his cruiser was broadsided at 56<sup>th</sup> Street and Busch Boulevard while attempting to pull over a red-light runner, police said.

Officer Tim Crocker, 32, was transported to University Community Hospital. He was released this morning with minor injuries. Crocker has been employed by the Temple Terrace Police Department for less than one year.

Also injured was a passenger in the vehicle that hit Officer Crocker's cruiser. Luljeta Drazhi, 40, of 28445 Tall Grass Road, Zephyrhills, was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital. Her condition was listed as stable. Police said she was not wearing a seatbelt.

According to police, Officer Crocker was at the corner of Busch Boulevard and 56<sup>th</sup> Street about 9:45 p.m. when he observed a vehicle make an illegal U-turn on red opposite him on Bullard Parkway (Busch Boulevard becomes Bullard Parkway east of 56<sup>th</sup>).

Crocker turned on his emergency lights, pulled onto Busch Boulevard, stopped to clear southbound traffic, and began to proceed through the intersection when his cruiser was struck on the passenger side by a northbound, late-model Lexus SUV driven by 18-year-old Ornela Drazhi of 10902 N. 50<sup>th</sup> St., Tampa.

Drazhi, who is Luljeta Drazhi's daughter, was not injured. Police said Ornela Drazhi was wearing a seatbelt.

Both the Lexus and police cruiser were totaled in the accident, police said.

There is no description available of the vehicle that committed the illegal U-turn and left the scene.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Temple Terrace Police Department at (813) 989-7110.

The incident remains under investigation. No charges have been filed at this time.

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