



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Vehicle into Saugatuck River

(Westport, CT) On 02/25/17 at approximately 7:40pm, patrons from the Whelk Restaurant, 575 Riverside Avenue, heard a woman screaming for help. The witnesses could not see the female, but heard her screams coming from the Saugatuck River. They called 911, and Westport Police Officers and Firefighters responded immediately. Also responding to assist were the State Police, Norwalk Police and Fairfield Police. Emergency responders observed a female struggling in the middle of the river heading north with the current. Westport Firefighters and Officers boarded a civilian boat on the side of the river and successfully rescued the female. The female was able to advise that she was in a vehicle and ended up in the water. She reported there was another male with her in the car, and he may still be in the water. The female was transported to Norwalk Hospital. Approximately ½ hour later, Officers observed the male further up the river near the Bridge Street Bridge. He was pulled from the water and transported to Norwalk Hospital. The condition of the male is unknown at this time. The Westport Dive Team is currently on scene assisting with removing the vehicle from the river.

No foul play is suspected. This incident continues to be investigated by the Westport Police Department. Information to follow as it becomes available.

Update - 02/26/17

The male who died as a result of the vehicle entering the river has been identified as:
Richard Lamendola (age 76) Syosset, New York

Preliminary information indicates the vehicle entered the river from the State Boat Launch off of Elaine Road. The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

- END -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 02/26/17

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