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ACCIDENT AUTOMOBILE

MAN KILLED IN TWO-CAR CRASH

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Article Text:

A man was killed late Saturday after crashing his vehicle into a cab in the city's midtown area. Police have not yet released the identity of the driver but say he had just sped away from a traffic checkpoint before crashing the car.

There were five people in the vehicle, including two women and three men. The driver of the white, 1983 Buick Park Avenue, died at the scene.

Shortly before 10 p.m., as Precinct 2 officers worked a traffic checkpoint at 40th and Jefferson streets, the Buick approached traveling south on Jefferson. When the driver spotted the road block, at 39th Street, he spun the vehicle around, said police spokesman Bucky Burnsed. He sped north on Jefferson for just two blocks, before crashing the vehicle into a blue Adam cab, which was heading east on 37th Street.

The impact of the crash threw the cab's female passenger from the vehicle, said Lt. Harold Ragan. Both the driver and passenger in the cab were taken to Memorial Health University Medical Center. Their injuries were considered to be not life-threatening, Burnsed said.

Two passengers in the Buick refused treatment. The others were also transported to the hospital.

Police say there was no one chasing the Buick at the time of the crash.

"They didn't even have a chance to chase this vehicle," Burnsed said.

"We weren't pursuing him," Ragan said. "One officer got his blue light on, but that's it. By the time he threw it in reverse and got up here, it was over."

Savannah firefighters on the scene used the Jaws of Life to extricate the passengers from the Buick.

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