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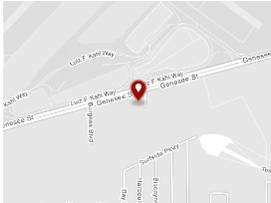
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Fort Myers man killed in hit-and-run at Buffalo Niagara International Airport

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Published 12:52 p.m. ET Aug. 8, 2017 | Updated 5:58 p.m. ET Aug. 8, 2017



(Photo: Special to The News-Press)

A Fort Myers man apparently walking from his parents house to catch a flight home at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport in Cheektowaga, New York, was killed in a hit-and-run crash Tuesday morning.

The Cheektowaga Police Department said Robert Prigl, 55, of Fort Myers and Depew, New York, was hit by the vehicle shortly before 5 a.m. on Genesee Street.

According to a report in the Buffalo News (<http://buffalonews.com/2017/08/08/part-genesee-street-near-airport-closed-due-crash/>), a neighbor said Prigl was heading to the airport to catch a flight back to Florida.

"The unknown vehicle was west bound on Genesee Street as it struck the pedestrian who was in the roadway in the vicinity of 4255 Genesee," a police report said.

The CPD's accident investigation unit is following up on several leads and asking for witnesses to come forward to identify the vehicle, which may have front-end damage.

The Buffalo News report said investigators were also asking businesses in the area for surveillance video that may help identify the vehicle and the driver.

Along the south side of Genesee are a stretch of hotels and other businesses. In this area, Genesee has six driving lanes plus a median/turning lane. The speed limit is 45 mph. The area where he was struck is not far from a traffic light and a crosswalk.

Police have not released many details about what happened.

The Buffalo News reported Prigl grew up in a house on Argus Drive in Depew where his parents still reside, said neighbor Helen Aubry, who said Prigl was headed to the airport.

Prigl regularly came up from Florida to visit and help out his parents, who have lived next door to Aubry for more than 40 years.

"He was a very outgoing, very hardworking person," Aubry said.

Prigl liked to walk places, she said. He previously turned down her offers to pick him up at the airport when he flew into town, choosing to make the roughly 3-mile walk to his parents' Depew home instead, she said.

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Cheektowaga police confirmed Prigl was walking to the airport Tuesday morning from his parents' home.

In addition to his parents, Hans and Beate, Prigl also is survived by a sister and nephews, Aubry said.

The earliest passenger flights typically start leaving the airport at about 5:30 a.m., while cargo flights typically begin departing at 4:30 a.m., said Helen Tederous, a Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority spokeswoman.

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