

Moraga Police Department investigates death of child stranded in vehicle

By Nick Marnell

A 19-month old toddler died Sept. 11 after being left unattended in a car on Hardie Drive for several hours by a family member.

Moraga police and Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency personnel responded to a medical call around 4 in the afternoon and discovered a child who was not breathing. Paramedics performed life saving measures and transported the child, Lily Aracic, to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where she was later pronounced dead.

The outside temperature at the time first responders arrived at the scene was approximately 80 degrees.

"It is an absolute tragedy," Moraga Police Chief Jon King said. "It has impacted everyone, including my officers, firefighters, the dispatchers, the people in the emergency room." It was the first incident of its kind he can remember in Moraga, King said, and the third this year in California.

The chief outlined preventive measures for drivers who bring a child along for the ride. "Look before you walk," he said, advising drivers to make sure that a child, or a pet, or even valuables like a laptop or a briefcase, are in plain view in the back seat of the car. He suggested purposely leaving something in the back seat near the passenger, like a phone, or a purse, something you absolutely have to get, and no way would forget.

King also recommended setting up checks and balances between the driver and the destination. "If a child should be dropped off somewhere at 9:00, and the child has not arrived by 9:15 or so, have the receiving party call just to check on the delay," he said.

The incident is under investigation by the Moraga Police Department. The determination of the exact cause of Aracic's death is pending a report by the Contra Costa County Coroner's office.



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Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 26-Sept. 8

Alarms	54
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	107
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	13
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Patrol Request/ Security Check	26
Service to Citizen	46
Supplemental Report	16
Vacation House Check	26
Welfare Check	4
Abandoned Vehicle	40 Block Brookwood Rd.
Accident Injury	McDonnell Nursery
Accident Property	Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo Village Gate Rd./Orindawoods Dr. Wells Fargo
Annoying A Child	100 Block Crest View Dr.
Auto Burglary	Wilder Sports Fields
Battery	10 Block Patricia Rd.
Burglary	McCaulous

Civil Problem	Wagner Ranch Elementary
County Solicitor Permit	10 Block Eastwood Dr.
Dependent Child	Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.
Disturbance-Domestic	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
Drunk In Public	500 Block Moraga Way
Dui Misd	San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd. Orinda Intermediate School
Fireworks	Los Arboles/Camino Don Miguel 20 Block Marston Rd.
Found Adult	10 Block Altarinda Cr.
Found Property	Orinda Senior Village
Grand Theft From Building	50 Block La Espiral
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Pine Grove Business Complex
Identity Theft	Police Department Ardilla Rd./Camino Pablo 10 Block Orinda Way
Juvenile Disturbance	20 Block Lavina Ct. 500 Block Miner Rd. Glorietta Elementary School
Loitering	Sycamore Rd./Miner Rd.
Loud Music	70 Block Hillcrest Dr. (2)
Loud Noise	10 Block Lloyd Ln.

Loud Party	10 Block La Campana Rd. Orinda Country Club 500 Block Miner Rd. (2)
Medical Hospital	10 Block Great Oak Cr. 10 Block Lost Valley Dr. 100 Block Overhill Rd. Miner Rd./Camino Pablo McDonnell Nursery
Ordinance Violation	30 Block Charles Hill Ln. 10 Block Great Oak Cr. 10 Block Cielo Ct. 10 Block Valley Dr.
Other Misdemeanor	10 Block Camino Sobrante
Petty Theft	30 Block Charles Hill Cr. Safeway
Petty Theft From Veh	20 Block Austin Ct.
Public Assembly Check	Sleepy Hollow School Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
Public Nuisance	Avenida De Orinda/Orinda Way Orinda Way/Avenida De Orinda E Altarinda Dr./Orindawoods Dr. 800 Block Ironbark Pl.
Reckless Driving	Hall Dr./Moraga Way Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)

Residential Burglary	10 Block E Altarinda Dr.
Robbery Strongarm	Hidden Valley Rd./Tahos Rd.
School Assembly Check	Mhs (7)
Traffic Hazard	300 Block Camino Pablo Del Rey School Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd. 10 Block Charles Hill Rd. Orchard Rd./Glorietta Blvd. 500 Block Miner Rd. 100 Block Orchard Rd. Canon Dr./El Toyonal
Trespass	300 Block Camino Sobrante
Vandalism	20 Block La Cuesta Rd.
Verbal Dispute	100 Block Crest View Dr. 10 Block Mira Loma
Walk Through	Cvs 10 Block Camino Sobrante (2) Theater Square
Warrant Arrest	Miramonte High School Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd. 10 Block Theatre Sq 106

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