



Huntington Beach Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: 9-17-2009 Time: 12:00

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Traffic Accident with fatal injury	
LOCATION: Brannen and Wildrose, Huntington Beach	
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 8-7-2009 at 9:05pm	CASE NUMBER: 09-013418

DETAILS: This press release is a follow up to the press release of 8-8-2009 at 00:10am.

Eagle Scout Was Not Car Surfing

On August 7, 2009, seventeen year old Christopher Michael Hernandez II died from injuries sustained when he fell off a moving vehicle. Several media sources cited or inferred the cause of this accident as being “car surfing”. The Huntington Beach Police Department has investigated this tragic accident and there is no evidence to suggest that this accident was the result of car surfing.

“Car surfing” is a term used to describe a thrill-seeking activity that involves riding on the exterior of a vehicle while someone else is driving. A popular example is shown in the movie *Teen Wolf* in which the lead character does hand stands, flips and dances on the roof of a van being driven through a town to the theme song, “Surfing USA”. Many teens have suffered severe injuries and have been killed mimicking these dangerous acrobatic stunts.

The distraction of this misinformation by several media sources has caused delays in this investigation and exasperated the grief the family has had to endure. Servite High School, the family and friends have all stated Christopher Michael Hernandez II was a young man of many accomplishments, an Eagle Scout, an excellent student and a gifted musician. They do not want him to be remembered by the inaccurate information that has been disseminated by the media.

The only source of the misinformation appears to be from anonymous blogs and media reporting on these blogs as reliable information. There is no such information, regarding car surfing, coming from the witnesses to the incident or the Huntington Beach Police Department.