



# Staten Island Advance

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## Search is on for Staten Island hit-run killer

by JOHN M. ANNESE

STATEN ISLAND — A hit-and-run driver was on the loose early today after fatally striking a 29-year-old male bicyclist on Grymes Hill near Wagner College last night.

As of early this morning, police had not yet released the identity of the male bicyclist, stating that his family had not yet been notified of his death.

The bicyclist was carrying a backpack with a Wagner College folder stuffed with papers, and a large textbook.

The impact of the crash knocked off one of the victim's sneakers.

Police were looking for a black SUV or pickup truck, possibly a newer-model Dodge, with its front grill missing.

The bicyclist was struck at about 9:13 p.m. on Howard Avenue, on a curved stretch of road between Highland and Grand avenues. Police reported he was headed "eastbound," or uphill, on the "westbound" side of the road.

Neighbors heard a bang, and when they ran out, they saw the man on the ground, his mangled reddish-orange bicycle on the street.

"He landed on his chest. He was totally unresponsive," said Mary Ellen Tarangelo, who lives on Howard. "He moved not one iota, nothing."

The bicyclist's possessions were scattered across the road by the impact — one of his sneakers was knocked off and, Ms. Tarangelo said, his phone and backpack landed in separate spots along the street.

"We were out here in a minute. There must have been 12 people calling 911. He didn't move," she said. "It's very, very horrible. I don't know how you'd just hit someone and take off."

The bicyclist was rushed to Richmond University Medical Center in West Brighton, where he was pronounced dead, according to an NYPD spokesman.

Police blocked off a stretch of Howard Avenue until 11:15 last night as they investigated, turning away several drivers who tried to pass through the scene of the accident, oblivious to the road flares placed across the street.

On silive.com, folks were stunned by the callousness of the driver.

"How terrible. Hit and run = coward," posted one user, petuniaz.

"This is so sad. RIP. Hope the driver gets punished," said another, springblossom.

"The coward should turn himself in quick," opined a third, youngadult.

Anyone with information about the hit-and-run driver may call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-TIPS (8477); visit [nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://nypdcrimestoppers.com) or send text tips to CRIMES (274637), then enter TIP577.