



## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Portage Department  
of Public Safety  
Watch Commander  
269-329-4567

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 11/6/2017

Case No. 17-22293

On August 7, 2017 at approximately 6:31 p.m., the Portage Department of Public Safety Communications Center received reports of a car-pedestrian accident in the 7200 block of Portage Road. Witnesses and passing motorists stopped to render aid to the victim. Portage firefighters arrived and continued life-saving efforts; however, the victim succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Portage police officers investigating the accident determined that the victim, Jeremy David Smith, a 20-year-old male Kalamazoo Township resident, was riding a bicycle northbound on Portage Road. A northbound 2009 Chevrolet pickup, driven by a 20-year-old male Hartford resident, struck the bicyclist.

Update 11/6/17

The suspect in this investigation, Joshua Christian Najacht, was charged with Moving Violation Causing Death. On November 2, 2017, Najacht turned himself in on the charges. Najacht was released on a \$500 bond and is scheduled to be in court on November 16, 2017.

The accident remains under investigation and anyone with information is asked to call Portage Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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