

# Drivers racing before crash, witnesses say

Cars topped 100 mph before ex-lawmaker hit

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**SCOTTSDALE** — Two drivers suspected of killing a former state legislator in a three-car crash were racing at speeds of more than 100 mph in a 45 mph zone, according to witness statements contained in a court document.

Cal Holman, 76, a Paradise Valley representative from 1975 to 1985, was ejected when the cars slammed into his Camaro near Scottsdale Road and Eastwood Lane on Friday.

Drivers Robert Van Brakel, 42, of Phoenix, and Travis Aronica, 25, of Canton, Mich., were each arrested on one count of second-degree murder. They posted \$25,000 bond and have been released from a Maricopa County jail.

They are scheduled to appear for a status conference

at 8:30 a.m., Friday in Maricopa County Superior Court.

According to the court document, the two men were racing north on Scottsdale Road, Aronica's Mustang in the right lane, Van Brakel's white Mercedes sedan in the left.

Meanwhile, Holman was driving his white Chevrolet Camaro south on Scottsdale Road, making a left turn onto Eastwood Lane.

As the two speeding cars approached Eastwood, Van Brakel "could not stop his vehicle and struck the Camaro on the passenger side," the court document said.

Aronica's Mustang struck next. The impact flipped the Mustang upside down in a ditch. Holman was thrown 75 feet in the air. He died at the scene.

Aronica was treated for a broken arm. His passenger suffered minor injuries.