

Mother drives over baby

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Garcia: Incident was accidental

The incident began when 23-year-old Melissa Vela was about to leave in her vehicle, along with her two children, the one-year-old girl and a two-year-old.

The mother returned to her apartment to get something she forgot and left the driver's side door open, according to what she told police.

Garcia said Vela was driving away and felt she hit something. That is when the mother noticed one of her children was missing, he said.

"At that time, there was a man who was working on his car across the street who was also telling her

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— San Benito Director of Public Safety J. Orlando Garcia

to stop,” said Garcia. “And when she comes out (of the car) he tells her, ‘You just ran over a baby,’”

Vela then called 911. EMS services arrived shortly before police.

Both the mother and the infant

were transported to VBMC. Garcia said officers saw minimal external injuries to the little girl, but doctors at the hospital found additional trauma.

“The internal (injury) is what the doctors are saying is pretty harsh,” he said.

A day after the incident, Garcia said the little girl was improving. As of 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, the infant was in critical but stable condition, said Garcia. The report on the matter is still pending.

“Obviously, it wasn't anything that was intentional. It was an accident,” said Garcia. “We have yet to make a decision on whether we're going to pursue or place any charges against the mother.”

A San Benito infant was transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center after being run over by her mother Monday afternoon.

Police and emergency services responded to a report of a child down at the Northwest San Benito Apartments on La Palma around 2:30 p.m. “We get there, the mother's hysterical,” said J. Orlando Garcia, San Benito Director of Public Safety. “The baby was crying, which was a good sign.”

He said police believe the one-year-old girl was run over by the front right tire of her mother's car.