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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two Arrested Over Weekend for Fourth OWI Offenses

Penalties doubled for driver facing fourth OWI within five years with minor passenger in vehicle

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff's deputies arrested two men this weekend for their fourth OWI offenses. One offender faces a felony charge for his fourth OWI within five years, with penalties doubled for having a minor passenger under age 16 in the vehicle.

On Sunday, March 13 at 10:00 p.m., a deputy witnessed a truck deviating from its lane and pulled the vehicle over on northbound I-894 and W. Greenfield Avenue. The deputy detected a strong odor of alcohol on the driver's breath, noted that his speech was slurred, and asked him to perform standard field sobriety tests.

The driver, Darryl L. Paradowski, age 49, failed to recite the alphabet and stated he could not perform the other tests due to medical reasons. His **PBT registered at .27**, more than three times the legal limit, and he was placed under arrest for his fourth OWI. His previous convictions occurred in April 1990, November 1996 and January 2001.

In the second incident, a deputy observed a vehicle deviating from its designated lane westbound on I-94 and pulled the driver over northbound on US-45. The deputy detected a strong odor of alcohol and noted the driver's eyes were red and glassy, and asked that he perform field sobriety tests.

The driver, Armando H. Valdivia, age 42, performed poorly on the tests and was conveyed to Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital for a legal blood draw and then booked at the County Correctional Facility-Central downtown on a felony charge for OWI-Fourth Offense within 5 years with a minor passenger under age 16 in the vehicle.

Valdivia was traveling with his wife and four-year-old daughter, who was not in a proper seat restraint. His previous OWI convictions were in July 2003, January 2006 and February 2008.

Wisconsin Act 100 strengthened Wisconsin's drunk driving laws. The new provisions of Act 100 apply to violations that occur on or after July 1, 2010. Under the new law, a fourth offense Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) becomes a felony if it occurs within five years of an earlier offense.

If convicted of his fourth OWI offense, Paradowski faces a Class H Felony with a fine of \$600 to \$10,000, and 6-months to 6-years imprisonment with no option for house arrest. The penalties for Valdivia are doubled for having a minor passenger under age 16 in the vehicle, resulting in a fine of \$1200 to \$20,000, and 12-months to 12-years imprisonment, if convicted.

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