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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wrong-way Drunk Driver Causes Freeway Crash

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested the first OWI offender this morning at 7:12 a.m. after responding to a two-car crash on southbound I-43 at Silver Spring. The driver, Justin L. Murphy, age 28, made a U-turn on the freeway and was traveling northbound in the southbound lanes of traffic.

Murphy failed standardized field sobriety tests and was transported to the County Correctional Facility-Central (downtown jail) for a breath sample. The PAC results were **.15**, almost twice the legal limit. He has a prior OWI conviction from 2009.

"The disturbing part to me is that for many the celebration has just begun; we have a long way to go," said Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. "The safety of innocent people on their way to work this morning was seriously put at risk by a wrong-way drunk driver on the freeway. It defies all odds that no one was injured in this crash. Luck has nothing to do with it."

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office and Southeast Multi-Jurisdictional OWI Task Force are conducting an enhanced enforcement deployment targeting drunk drivers from 6:00 a.m. today through 4:00 a.m. Friday. Last year, 77 drunk drivers were arrested during the St. Patrick's Day deployment. This year, 137 squads will be deployed to stop, test and arrest drunk drivers.

The public is reminded to have a plan in place before they start drinking. Alternatives to driving drunk include taking the MCTS FreeRides, choosing a sober designated driver, or calling a taxicab.

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