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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Milwaukee Man Arrested for Fourth OWI Offense within Five Years

Milwaukee, WI – A Milwaukee County Sheriff's deputy arrested Andrew L. Owens, age 42, of Milwaukee, shortly after 1:10 a.m. for his fourth Operating While Intoxicated offense within five years. His prior OWI convictions occurred in February 2001, April 2005 and January 2011.

A sheriff's deputy stopped to assist a disabled vehicle on the Watertown Plank Road off ramp near Hwy 45. The deputy approached the driver and noted the odor of alcohol on his breath and conducted standardized field sobriety tests. Owens performed poorly on the tests, and he was taken to Froedtert Hospital for a legal blood draw. He was then transported to the County Correctional Facility-Central for processing.

Owens' driver's license had been revoked for a previous OWI offense. He was issued citations for Operating Under the Influence- 4th within 5 years, Operating While Revoked, and Prohibited Alcohol Concentration.

During the arrest process, a 50-year-old Milwaukee woman stopped at the scene and spoke to the deputies, and they determined that she was also impaired. Her BAC registered a .10, and she was issued a citation for OWI-1st. Her identity is not being released pending review of her traffic forfeiture by the district attorney's office.

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, Owens 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.

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