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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2011

Illegal Immigrant Sentenced to Huber with Work Release Wrong –Way Drunk Driver Caused Freeway Crashes

Milwaukee, WI – An illegal immigrant, Armando Rodriguez-Benitez, age 35, was sentenced yesterday to 11 months at the county jail with Huber for work release.

“This sentence makes no sense,” said Sheriff David A. Clarke. “Why would we let an illegal immigrant out on work release to look for a job he’s not supposed to have - he’s in the country illegally. As soon as he’s released for Huber, he’s going to flee. He knows he’s facing deportation at the end of his sentence. He’s a flight risk. He faced up to 10 years in prison for this charge. If the judge didn’t find this incident serious enough to send him to prison for an extended period of time, then an 11 month bed-and-breakfast stay at the county jail is a waste of taxpayer resources. The deportation process should start TODAY, not 11 months from now. The county property taxpayers should not have to pay to house him. If all we are going to do is give him a slap on the wrist, then let’s just start the deportation process.”

The Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office has contacted the US Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to make them aware of the work-release sentence and urge that they immediately begin the deportation process.

On July 21, Rodriguez-Benitez was driving drunk, with a prohibited alcohol content over three times the legal limit (.25), in the wrong direction in the southbound lanes of I-43 from Becher Street until he was stopped by a sheriff’s deputy on the freeway near Capitol Drive. He had forced another vehicle to crash into the median wall to avoid a head-on collision at Burleigh, and crashed into a car near Keefe Avenue.

Rodriguez-Benitez was also cited for serious violations, which were dismissed, of Driving Wrong Way on Highway, Reckless Driving, PAC-1st, Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Insurance and Operating Without a Valid License. He faced a total of up to 10 years in prison. A Wisconsin state prison sentence was stayed in favor of an 11-month sentence in the county jail with Huber.