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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Deputies Arrest Wrong-Way Driver Involved in Hit and Run Crash

Milwaukee, WI – This morning, at about 6:15 a.m., dispatch was notified of a crash at I-94 southbound at Rawson Avenue. One of the vehicles then left the scene, driving northbound in the southbound lanes, and multiple squads responded.

STOC video showed that the car turned to go in the right direction near College Avenue. The car then exited at Rawson, stopped momentarily, and then fled the scene and was stopped by deputies on S. 13th Street at Drexel Avenue.

The driver and lone occupant of the white Lincoln Navigator, identified as Maria Imelda Gonzalez, age 51, of Milwaukee, lost control of her vehicle and spun around facing the wrong way, and struck another vehicle. She then drove in the wrong direction and side-swiped an oncoming car, but continued driving northbound in the southbound emergency lane. She told deputies that a semi moved into her lane and she attempted to move over, but lost control. Gonzalez did not show any signs of intoxication, and said she had just panicked. A blood draw was taken.

Gonzalez has no criminal history, and faces the following citations and potential charges related to today's incident: Hit and Run (Occupied Vehicle), Driving Wrong Way-Divided Highway, and Failure to Control Vehicle. If convicted of the Hit and Run charge, she faces up to six months in prison. The ADA will determine if the wrong-way charge should be increased to Recklessly Endangering Safety after reviewing the case.

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