



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff



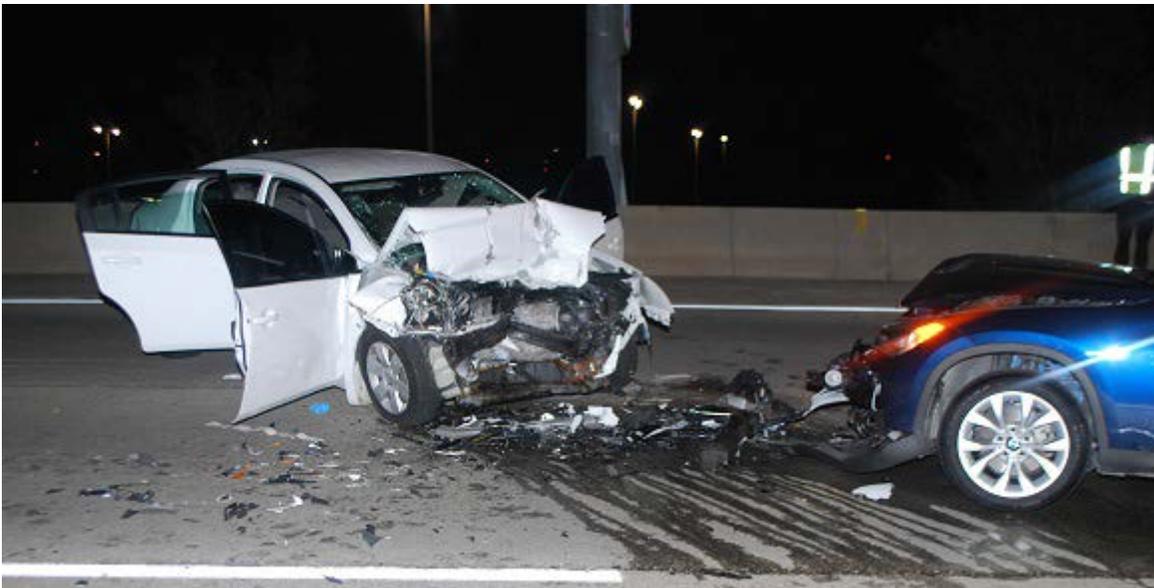
2013 Sheriff of the Year

Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wrong-way Suspected Drunken Driver in Head-on Collision Operation Drive Sober Results in 5 Arrests 1192 Repeat Offenders Since January 2010



Milwaukee, WI – At the start of last year, Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. ordered an aggressive weekend Driving Under the Influence (DUI) initiative to rid the Milwaukee County freeway system of drunken drivers.

This weekend's initiative, from Friday at 4:00 p.m. through Sunday at 6:00 a.m., resulted in the arrest of five impaired drivers. The average PBT result was .16.

Today, at about 2:30 a.m., the Milwaukee Fire Department called dispatch about a wrong-way driver traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of I-94 at 35th Street. At 2:36 a.m., dispatch aired that the wrong-way driver had crashed head-on with a vehicle that was traveling northbound on US-41 (Miller Parkway) on the southeast ramp.

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Both the driver and passenger of the wrong-way vehicle, a white Nissan, were unconscious. The driver of the blue BMW was treated at the hospital for minor leg injuries. The 23-year-old passenger in the Nissan suffered life-threatening injuries.

West Milwaukee police assisted in shutting down Miller Parkway at National Avenue while measurements were taken at the crash scene. Deputies found empty and full beer cans in the suspect's vehicle. The highway reopened at about 6:30 a.m.

The Milwaukee Police Department initially received a call about an abandoned white Nissan on N. 35th Street. Milwaukee Fire and a tow truck responded, but saw occupants in the vehicle. When MFD personnel approached, the driver fled and entered I-94 at 35th Street in the wrong direction.

Jorge Santiago Ramirez, age 23, of Milwaukee, will face multiple charges, including DUI-2nd /Cause Injury, Injury by Intoxicated Use of Motor Vehicle, Wrong Way on Divided Highway, Operating While Revoked/Cause Great Bodily Harm; Injury by Intoxicated Use of Motor Vehicle, and 2nd Degree Reckless Endangering Safety. If convicted of all charges, he faces up to 45 years in prison.

First-time offenders cited during the weekend's Operation Drive Sober initiative included Daniel Mueller, age 65, of Oconomowoc; Cameron Thierry, age 30, of Racine; Sheldon Wayne Gasek, age 44, of Wauwatosa; and Melissa Phillips, age 36, of Milwaukee.

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