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## **Media Release**

### **Head on Collision in North Las Vegas Kills Two Residents**

On Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at approximately 4:48am, the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to an accident on southbound Interstate 15 at mile marker 102.

NHP dispatch received reports of a vehicle traveling northbound on southbound US-95 near Tropicana Avenue. The wrong way driver, identified as twenty year old Mario Valencia from North Las Vegas, was driving a green 1996 Ford Explorer which caused two separate collisions at US-95 and Flamingo Road.

The vehicle driven by Mario Valencia continued northbound on US-95, in the southbound #1 travel lane approaching State Route 582. A white 1993 Toyota 4-Runner, driven by fifty-eight year old Ramiro Meza of North Las Vegas, was traveling southbound on US-95 in the #1 travel lane approaching the Ford Explorer. Mario Valencia steered the Ford Explorer to the right and Ramiro Meza steered the Toyota 4-Runner to the left. Both vehicles entered the east paved shoulder where they collided head on.

A white 1997 GMC Safari was traveling northbound on US-95 in the #1 travel lane south of the head on collision. The spare rim/tire of the Toyota 4-Runner entered the northbound travel lanes where it was struck by the GMC van. The Ford Explorer and the Toyota 4-Runner caught fire. Mario Valencia was trapped inside. Ramiro Meza was pulled to safety by a passerby. The Ford Explorer came to rest on its wheels facing northeast, partially in the east paved shoulder and #1 travel lane. The Toyota 4-Runner came to rest on its wheels, facing south in the east paved shoulder, north of and in contact with the Ford Explorer.

Mario Valencia was pronounced dead at the scene. Ramiro Meza was transported to UMC where he succumbed to his injuries sustained in the collision. No other drivers were injured.

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