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December 22, 2012

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## **Media Release**

### **Wrong-Way Driver Charged with Felony DUI After Causing Head-on Collision Involving Substantial Injuries to Victim Motorist on US 395 Near the Red Rock Interchange**

On Saturday, December 22, 2012 shortly before 3:00 am, the Department of Public Safety-Communications Center began receiving phone calls regarding a vehicle traveling the wrong way on US 395 near Bordertown north of Reno. The vehicle was described as a dark colored pickup traveling south in the northbound lanes and witnesses stated the disoriented driver narrowly missed striking several other vehicles. Troopers began responding toward the location in an effort to locate and stop the errant motorist.

At approximately 2:58 am, the pickup described as a green 2011 Dodge Ram 1500 quad cab and driven by 40-year-old Richard A. Garska of Reno, crashed head-on into a silver colored 2002 Mitsubishi Montero SUV driven by Lesbia R. Bojorquez, 44 of Reno. The crash took place in the left lane of northbound US 395 just south of the Red Rock Interchange. Ms. Bojorquez was trapped in her vehicle and had to be extricated by Truckee Meadows Fire Department personnel while Garska was being treated for injuries, which appeared to be superficial, by REMSA personnel. He also displayed several signs of alcohol impairment and failed a preliminary breath test at the crash scene. Both motorists were transported to Renown Regional Medical Center a short time later by ground ambulance.

At the hospital troopers learned that Ms. Bojorquez had had very serious internal and external injuries while Garska was expected to be treated and released in just a few hours. Shortly before 6:00 am, he was medically cleared from the hospital and taken to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office-Detention Facility and booked into the jail for felony DUI causing substantial bodily harm (no bail) and for driving the wrong way on a divided highway. He is still in custody at the jail this morning. The updated condition of Ms. Bojorquez was not available this morning.

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*As a safety reminder to all motorists, especially during the hours of darkness and where there isn't a long line of sight ahead, always drive in the right lane of a multiple-lane highway. Almost every crash involving a wrong-way driver takes place in the left lane. It is suspected that those motorists who drive the wrong-way on a highway are so grossly intoxicated and confused that they believe or assume they are traveling in correct direction and in their own right travel lane.*

Garska's booking photo is attached (courtesy of WCSO) and two crash scene photos.



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