



## Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

# MEDIA RELEASE



## THREE VEHICLE INJURY CRASH INVOLVING A SHERIFF'S CRUISER

**SYMMES TOWNSHIP, 11/05/2013** –Chief Deputy Mark Schoonover, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, reports a three vehicle injury crash involving a Sheriff's (Symmes Township contract) patrol cruiser on Fields Ertel Road at the intersection of Union Cemetery Road.

On November 5, 2013, at approximately 1945 hrs. a Sheriff's cruiser was being operated in emergency response, westbound on Fields Ertel Road by Deputy Darin Bernard, 40 of Cincinnati, Ohio. Deputy Bernard was responding to back up another officer on a felony traffic stop, when his cruiser was struck on the right side portion by the front portion of a 2012 Honda Accord, which was operated by Mr. Rishi J. Shah, 31 of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Shah was attempting to proceed southbound on Union Cemetery Road, from the Waterstone business campus located on the northern side of the intersection. During the collision Deputy Bernard's cruiser was redirected, causing it to travel out of control as it traveled left of center into the eastbound lanes of travel. At this point the right side portion of Deputy Bernard's cruiser struck a third vehicle on the right front portion, which was stopped in the left thru lane on eastbound Fields Ertel Road at the intersection of Union Cemetery Road. The third vehicle, a 2002 Honda Accord was operated by Viktor Lapin, 29 of Cincinnati, Ohio, and sustained minor damage during the collision.

All parties involved were utilizing their safety restraints at the time of the incident.

Deputy Bernard was transported by Loveland Symmes Fire and E.M.S. to Bethesda North Hospital for possible injury to his left knee.

Mr. Shah was cited for 4511.45 O.R.C. (Failing To Yield To A Public Safety Vehicle)

The crash remains under investigation by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Traffic Safety Unit.

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### MEDIA CONTACT:

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**Mug Shot Requests** - Identification 513-946-6230

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