



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



SHERIFF'S DEPUTY STRUCK ON I-275 IN WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

Whitewater Township, December 1, 2015 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports a motor vehicle crash which resulted in a Sheriff's Deputy being struck. The crash occurred on the ramp from westbound I.R. 74 to southbound I.R. 275, in Whitewater Township, on December 1, 2015 at 10:32 a.m.

A 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt operated by Gregory Bonomini, male, age 20, of Lawrenceburg, IN was traveling on the ramp from southbound I.R. 74 to southbound I.R. 74 when he lost control of his vehicle on the wet roadway. Mr. Bonomini's vehicle traveled off the left side of the roadway and struck a guardrail. His vehicle was disabled along the left shoulder of the ramp as a result of this crash. Deputies Kevin Statzer and Larry Henderson were dispatched to Mr. Bonomini's crash. After arriving at the scene they parked their marked cruisers along the left side of the ramp and activated their cruisers' overhead lights.

A 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt operated by Nia Brightwell, female, age 19, of Greendale, IN was traveling on the ramp from westbound I.R. 74 to southbound I.R. 275. As she approached the scene of Mr. Bonomini's crash, Ms. Brightwell failed to observe traffic slowing. She took evasive action by braking and steering to the left causing her vehicle to rotate in a counter-clockwise manner. As Ms. Brightwell's vehicle traveled off the left side of the roadway and onto the shoulder, it struck Deputy Henderson's parked cruiser. This collision redirected Ms. Brightwell's vehicle in a clockwise manner and the front of her vehicle struck Deputy Statzer. At the time he was struck, Deputy Statzer was standing along the shoulder just in front of Deputy Henderson's vehicle.

Deputy Statzer was transported to University Hospital by the Whitewater Township Fire Department where he is listed in fair condition. His injuries are considered not life-threatening. Ms. Brightwell was transported to Mercy West Hospital by the Harrison Fire Department. She was treated at the scene and released. Deputy Henderson was

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struck by debris from Ms. Brightwell's vehicle. He was treated at the scene by the Whitewater Township Fire Department. Mr. Bonomini was not injured.

Mr. Bonomini and Ms. Brightwell were both wearing seatbelts at the time of their crashes. Alcohol and/or abuse of drugs were not factors in either crash.

Both crashes remain under investigation by the Sheriff's Traffic Safety Unit.