

# Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

## MEDIA RELEASE



### WRONG-WAY CRASH ON I.R. 74 IN WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

**Whitewater Township, September 30, 2019** – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports a four-vehicle crash which occurred on I.R. 74 near milepost 6.9 (just west of S.R. 128), in Whitewater Township, on September 30, 2019 at approximately 2:30 a.m.

A 2007 Cadillac operated by Lafayette Dante Smith, age 46, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of I.R. 74 approaching S.R. 128. Mr. Smith's vehicle struck a 2010 Mazda which was being operated by Eli Velasquez-Zacarias, male, age 24, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Smith's vehicle continued out of control before coming to rest in the left two lanes of I.R. 74. After coming to rest Mr. Smith's vehicle was struck by a 2013 Freightliner 'box-truck' operated by Isaac Slaughter, male, age 34, of Cincinnati, Ohio and a 2012 Ford operated by Charlee Combs, female, age 31, of West Harrison, Indiana.

Mr. Smith was transported to University Hospital where he is being treated for non-life threatening injuries. Mr. Velasquez-Zacarias was transported to University Hospital, via AirCare, where he is being treated for life threatening injuries. Two adult passengers in Mr. Velasquez-Zacarias' vehicle, Leivy Velasquez, male, age 26, and Onelsa Roblero, female, age 23, both of Cincinnati, Ohio, were transported to University Hospital where they are being treated for non-life threatening injuries. Two juvenile passengers in Mr. Velasquez-Zacarias' vehicle, ages three and five, were transported to Cincinnati Children's Hospital. The three year-old was transported for

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#### MEDIA CONTACT:

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#### Public Record Requests:

Jessica Jones [jljones@sheriff.hamilton-co.org](mailto:jljones@sheriff.hamilton-co.org)

#### Mugshot Requests:

[Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org](mailto:Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org) or call (513) 946-6230



observation. The five year-old is being treated for life threatening injuries. Mr. Slaughter was transported to Mercy Health-West Hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries. Ms. Combs was not injured.

Mr. Smith was not utilizing a safety restraint at the time of the crash. Neither of the juveniles in Mr. Velasquez-Zacarias' vehicle nor Ms. Roblero were restrained at the time of the crash. All other drivers and passengers were utilizing safety restraints at the time of the crash.

The point at which Mr. Smith's vehicle entered the highway traveling the wrong way is not known at this time. 911 calls indicate that it was traveling the wrong way as it entered into Ohio from Indiana.

Alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Traffic Safety Unit. Any witnesses to the crash are asked to contact the Traffic Safety Unit at (513) 825-1500.