



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

MEDIA RELEASE

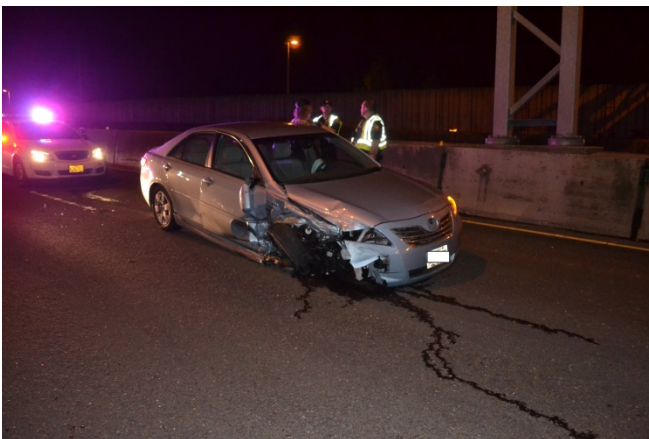
Impaired Driver Causes Chain Reaction Crash Involving Patrol Cars

June 11, 2017 – On June 11, 2017, just before 2:45 a.m., deputies were conducting field sobriety tests on a suspected impaired driver on westbound Highway 26 near SW Camelot Court.



As they were concluding these tests on Yash Desai, 23, of Portland, a vehicle crashed into the back of a deputy's patrol car, causing a chain reaction crash that left four vehicles – including two patrol cars – damaged. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The driver who caused the crash was identified as Earl Smith, 61, of Portland. All four vehicles had to be towed from the scene.



Mr. Desai was arrested for Driving while Under the Influence of Intoxicants ("DUII"). His blood-alcohol content ("BAC") was later determined to be more than twice the legal limit.

Mr. Smith was also arrested and charged with DUII, Reckless Driving, Criminal Mischief I and four counts of Reckless Endangering. Tests showed that

Mr. Smith also had a BAC more than twice the legal limit.

DUII enforcement is a priority for the Sheriff's Office. Our deputies arrest an average of 1,000 impaired drivers each year. DUII is a 100% preventable crime. The Washington County Sheriff's Office encourages the public to designate a driver when they consume substances that could impair their ability to drive. Other alternative forms of transportation, such as taxis or app-based Uber or Lyft, are readily available in the metro area.

Mugshots



Yash Desai



Earl Smith