



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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Richard R. Schmidt
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Deputies Arrest 24 in Operation Drive Sober Over New Year Holiday Weekend



Dixon – OWI-5th



Hauser – OWI-5th



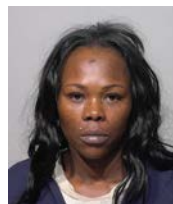
Jefferson – OWI-4th



Hopson – OWI-2nd/Resisting-Obstructing



Mitchell –OWI- 2nd



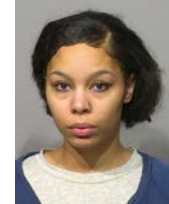
Penleton –OWI-2nd



Lutz-Smith–OWI-2nd



Watkins-2nd/Hit&Run



Barnett-1st, child in car

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff Richard R. Schmidt increased patrols for an aggressive Operating While Intoxicated (OWI- drugs and/or alcohol) New Year holiday weekend initiative to rid the Milwaukee County freeway system of intoxicated drivers. This past weekend's Operation Drive Sober initiative from Friday at 4:00 p.m. through 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, resulted in the arrest of 24 drunken drivers. The average PBT test results were .16.

Deputies arrested eight repeat offenders: Andrew Dixon, age 36, of Milwaukee, for OWI-5th; Joseph Hauser, age 35, of Port Washington, for OWI-5th; Charles Jefferson, age 60, of Milwaukee, for OWI-4th; Raphael Hopson, age 28, of Milwaukee, for OWI-2nd and Resisting/Obstructing; Najwa Mitchell, age 26, of Wauwatosa, for OWI-2nd/Ignition Interlock Tampering; Joelisa Penleton, age 28, of Milwaukee, for OWI-2nd; Eric Lutz-Smith, age 34, of Sussex, for OWI-2nd; and Howard Watkins, age 42, of Milwaukee, for OWI-2nd/Hit & Run.

Fourteen first-time offenders were taken into custody: James Lazar, age 31, of Chicago; Dajanay McCullum, age 21, of Milwaukee; Jose Gomez, age 28, of Sheboygan; Shane Radovan, age 27, of Kenosha; Jasmin Sendejo, age 24, of Milwaukee; Felicia Norfus, age 33, of Greenfield; Asher Imtiaz, age 37, of Shorewood; Hanna Haapakoski, age 24, of Oak Creek; Desiree Barnett, age 27, of Milwaukee; Esteban Rojo, age 22, of Milwaukee; Damien Sanders, age 36, of Milwaukee; Noah Gold, age 28, of West Allis; Omar Romo Ruiz, age 38, of Milwaukee; and Rodney Lawrence, age 68, of Milwaukee.

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OWI-5th

On Sunday, December 30, at about 12:40 a.m., a vehicle traveling on I-43 northbound near the Marquette interchange passed a marked squad at 100 mph, and then exited on McKinley Avenue. The vehicle eventually stopped at N. 14th Street and W. Walnut Street. The driver showed signs of intoxication, and performed poorly on standardized field sobriety tests (SFSTs).

Andrew Dixon, age 36, of Milwaukee, said he'd had one beer, and tested a .232 on a PBT. He was arrested for OWI-5th. His previous convictions were in November 2012, August 2014, December 2014 and February 2018. If convicted of this fifth offense, he faces up to 10 years in prison. Dixon also faces two misdemeanor charges: Operating While Revoked and Failure to Install Ignition Interlock Device, which carry a penalty of up to 10 months in jail.

OWI-5th

On Monday, December 31, just before midnight, a deputy observed a vehicle make an unsafe lane deviation at a high rate of speed, estimated at 80 mph in a 50 mph zone on I-43 southbound near W. Locust Street. The driver showed signs of being intoxicated and performed poorly on SFSTs. Joseph Hauser, 35, of Port Washington, tested a .18 on a PBT, and had a suspended driver's license. He was arrested for OWI-5th, with his prior convictions being from August 2004, February 2007, June 2011, and November 2014. He said he drank a six-pack of beer. Hauser faces up to ten years in prison if convicted.

OWI-4th

On Monday, December 31, at 7:00 p.m., a deputy responded to a crash from the north to the west in the Marquette interchange. The driver, Charles Jefferson, age 60, of Milwaukee, showed signs of intoxication and said he had been drinking champagne while watching football games. He had a .02 BAC restriction, but tested a .068 on a PBT. His prior convictions occurred in July 2005, October 2006, and May 2011. If convicted of this fourth offense, Jefferson faces up to six years in prison.

OWI-1st with minor child in vehicle

On Monday, December 31, at 11:00 p.m., deputies responded to a two-car crash on I-43 southbound near Brown Deer Road. While investigating the crash, a deputy noted one of the drivers showed signs of intoxication. Desiree Barnett, age 27, of Milwaukee, said she drank three shots of alcohol and performed poorly on SFSTs. Her PBT result was .145. A six-month-old infant was in the back seat of the car, and turned over to a relative. Barnett was arrested for OWI-1st W/Passenger Under 16 Years of Age, which carries a penalty of up to 60 days in jail.

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