Update: Wrong Way Driver Hits Officer

Arrested:

Madison Pratt Best
dob: 07/08/1993
226 SW Lincoln Circle North
St. Petersburg

Charge: DUI

Witness confirmed the officer’s account that he activated his emergency lights as she was northbound in the southbound lanes of Martin Luther King Street. She failed to yield to the emergency vehicle and proceeded through the red light at Gandy Boulevard, striking the officer’s vehicle as he tried to avoid her. The force of the crash spun the police vehicle around and onto the grass at the northwest corner of the intersection. The officer radioed out a crash and then failed to respond to radio calls. Dispatchers used GPS to confirm his location and direct responding officers who located the officer laying in the grass beside his cruiser, conscious but dazed by the crash.

Within the past 30 minutes the officer was released from Bayfront Medical Center with minor injuries. A supervisor transported him home and he will be out of work.

Best was not injured and refused field sobriety and breath tests. She was booked at the Pinellas County Jail.
Shortly after 3am, a woman driving the wrong way on MLK St. hit an officer in a marked cruiser in a head-on crash. The officer had just turned from 103 Ave. N... to head Southbound on MLK Street, when other driver heading North in the Southbound lanes, hit his cruiser. The officer tried to avoid the other driver, but was unable to do so. The other driver, a woman, was in a green 4-door Lexus.

At this time it does -not- appear that either driver has life-threatening injuries, however they are being transported to Bayfront Medical for treatment.

The officer was patrolling during his regular 10pm-8am shift when the crash occurred. All roads are open to traffic. This is all the information I have to release at this time.

Assistant Chief Jim Previtera will be on scene and available to speak to media at 5:30am.

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Yolanda Fernandez