



HOWARD COUNTY POLICE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SECTION **COLLISION MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Release: July 8, 2009

Media Inquiries: 410-313-2236 (M-F, 8-5)

410-313-3700 (after-hours)

Pedestrian walking dog struck by driver under the influence

The Howard County police Traffic Enforcement Section is investigating a serious motor vehicle collision that occurred on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at approximately 8:53 a.m. A woman was walking her dog on the sidewalk of Gray Rock Drive at Red Bandana Way in Ellicott City when a vehicle jumped the curb and struck her.

The vehicle, a Honda Civic, had been travelling westbound on Gray Rock Drive when it crossed the double yellow line, jumped the curb, traveled down the sidewalk and struck the woman and her dog. The driver has been identified as Joel Mann, 28, of the 3400 block of Plum Tree Drive in Ellicott City. He was arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance. He was not injured.

The woman is identified as Irene Gearratono, 62, of the 4200 block of Red Bandana Way. She was flown by Maryland State Police Medivac to the University of Maryland – Shock Trauma and is currently listed in stable condition.

The investigation is continuing by PFC Bingham.

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