

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | October 8, 2021

## **Crash Involving Morton County Sheriff's Office Vehicle**

**What:** Injury Crash

**Where:** Memorial Highway, west side of bridge in Mandan

**When:** Oct. 7 2021, at approximately 8:51 pm

**Road Conditions:** Good

**Weather Conditions:** Good, lighted with overhead lights.

**Crash Involvement:** Vehicle/Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Sideswipe at an angle.

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2019 GMC Acadia

**Driver No. 1:** Naida Valandra, 18, Mandan, minor injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt

**Charges:** Under Investigation

**Passenger No. 1:** Kennedy Brunelle, 18, Bismarck, minor injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2020 Ford Explorer (Morton County Sheriff's Office)

**Driver No. 2:** Damon Burkel (Deputy), 25, Mandan, minor injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt

**Charges:** Under Investigation

## **NARRATIVE:**

Burkel was in a marked Morton County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle responding to an injury crash at the intersection of Memorial Highway and 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE in Mandan. He was traveling east in the left lane of Memorial Highway and slowed to make a U-turn at the intersection just west of the bridge. Before making the U-turn, Burkel deactivated his emergency lights. As Burkel was making the turn, Valandra exited Expressway heading east on Memorial Highway. Valandra's vehicle struck the driver's side of Burkel's Explorer. Both vehicles came to rest in the east lane of Memorial Highway. This crash is under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

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## **For More Information Contact:**

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