



Verona Police Department

600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044

Phone: 973-239-5000 Fax: 973-857-5755 Mun. Code: 0720

Incident Report



Incident Details:

Case Number 25-00708	Time Reported 18:13	Date Reported 01/12/25	Time Occurred 18:13	Date Occurred 01/12/25	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed X
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Incident Type: Incident Location:

Driving While Intoxicated 39:4-50 MV Stop	Street # 226	Street Name Grove Ave	Apt #	Intersection / Cross Street of: Grove Ave / Durrell St
Business / Common Location Name				

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other

Code A	Contact Name #1 Galantino, Bonita	MI Suffix L	Age 68	Sex F	Race 1B	DOB [REDACTED]	SSN [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Verona, NJ 07044				Phone / Email [REDACTED]		Other Phone [REDACTED]	
Code I	Contact Name #2 Georges, George	MI Suffix	Age 64	Sex M	Race 1B	DOB [REDACTED]	SSN [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Wayne, NJ 07470				Phone / Email Address [REDACTED]		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #3	MI Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address				Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #4	MI Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address				Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #5	MI Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address				Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #6	MI Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address				Phone / Email		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #7	MI Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address				Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #8	MI Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address				Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	

Property Information:

Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:

1	Vehicle Code Arrest	Year 2020	Make Toyota	Body Type WAGON	Model RAV	Color Whit	Registration P24SBF	State NJ	VIN 2T3F1RFV9LC079720
2									
3									
4									

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On 01/12/2025, I was working the 0700-1900 hour tour of duty in marked patrol vehicle #10. At approximately 1810 hours, I was traveling south on Grove Avenue, approaching the intersection of Linden Avenue. At that time, I observed a white Toyota RAV4 traveling north on Grove Avenue, approaching me. As our vehicles were approaching each other, I began to notice the front and rear driver side wheels of the Toyota begin to cross over the double yellow lines, into the southbound lane of Grove Avenue. At that time, I had to turn my steering wheel to the right, in order to avoid a collision between our vehicles. I would estimate that almost half of the vehicle was crossed over the double yellow lines, into my lane of travel. Also during this time, I observed that the vehicle was traveling at an extremely slow speed, which I would estimate to be approximately 15 MPH. The vehicle was traveling at such a slow speed that three (3) vehicles were closely following behind the Toyota, clearly being obstructed by the slow speed. After avoiding the collision, I conducted a U-turn and began to travel north on Grove Avenue, in the direction of the Toyota, which I could still see in the distance. It should be mentioned that, even though I had to stop at the red traffic signal at the intersection of Grove Avenue and Linden Avenue, the Toyota was traveling so slow that it did not leave my line of view, as it proceeded slowly north on Grove Avenue. After the light turned green, I was able to successfully catch up to the Toyota in the area of Lynwood Road, at which time I observed that the vehicle was bearing New Jersey Registration - P24SBF. To be noted, while closing the gap, I observed an unrelated vehicle drive north in the southbound lanes, in an attempt to overtake the Toyota due to it's slow speed. It was evident that the drivers actions were creating a safety risk as she proceeded on Grove Avenue.

While now traveling behind the vehicle, it continued north on Grove Avenue at a slow speed, which I would again estimate to be approximately 15 MPH. During this time, I again observed the vehicle's driver side tires cross over the double yellow line on Grove Avenue. After observing the numerous violations, I activated my emergency lights in an attempt to initiate a motor vehicle stop. At that time, the vehicle began turning into the driveway of [REDACTED] and proceeded up the driveway, toward the rear/side of the residence.

After advising dispatch of my location, I approached the drivers window and observed the operator to be smoking a freshly lit cigarette, with all of the windows of the vehicle rolled up. At first, the driver seemed to not notice my presence. After standing by the drivers window for a approximately 20 seconds, I was able to gain the attention of the driver, who now appeared startled by my presence. After she rolled her window down, I identified myself and requested the necessary documents. The driver was identified through her New Jersey Drivers License as Bonita (Bonnie) Galantino. While speaking with Bonnie outside the drivers window, I began to detect a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emanating from inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Bonnie was able to provide me with her drivers license, vehicle registration, and multiple expired insurance cards. As she continued to look throughout the vehicle for an up-to-date insurance card, I had to remind her on numerous occasions on which documents she was attempting to locate. Her movements were slow and fumbled, and her speech was slow. Bonnie also appeared very confused. At that time, I asked Bonnie if she had anything to drink tonight, which she stated she had "one drink".

Due to the numerous observed motor vehicle violations, her demeanor as I was speaking to her, the strong odor of alcoholic beverage emanating from the passenger compartment of the vehicle, and her admission to consuming alcohol, I believed Bonnie to be operating her vehicle under the influence. At that time, I

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requested Bonnie exit the vehicle in order to conduct Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST's). Bonnie's movements were slow, and she appeared uneasy at her feet as she began to walk towards the front of her vehicle. While speaking with Bonnie outside of the vehicle, I began to detect a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emanating from her breath.

I advised Bonnie that I wished to perform some tests to determine if she was under the influence. While speaking with Bonnie further, she further advised that she had went out to lunch with her girlfriends and had one drink. Bonnie also stated that she is prescribed [REDACTED] and that she had consumed the prescription this morning.

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) Test:

Both of Bonnie's right and left pupils were of equal size and tracked together. Both her right and left eyes appeared bloodshot and watery. I used a black pen with a silver tip as a stimulus for Bonnie to track. While checking for HGN, I observed a lack of smooth pursuit in both her right and left eyes. I observed nystagmus at maximum deviation in both her left and right eyes.

Walk and Turn Test:

Bonnie was instructed to stand in the starting position with her right foot directly in front of her left foot, touching heel to toe. Bonnie was given numerous attempts to get into the starting position, and the instructions were explained/demonstrated to her numerous times. While attempting to place herself in the starting position, and while she attempted to maintain the position, Bonnie lost her balance on several occasions. Bonnie also stated that she suffers [REDACTED] which effects her ability to walk and causes her to fall.

At this point, for Bonnie's safety, the continuation of the tests were terminated. Bonnie was placed under arrest for N.J.S.A. 39:4-50 - Driving While Intoxicated. She was handcuffed (double-locked), searched and read her Miranda Warning, before being placed in the rear of Car 10 for transportation to headquarters. After being placed in the rear of car 10, I began to detect a strong odor of alcoholic beverage within the vehicle, which was not there prior to her being placed inside.

Since Bonnie's vehicle was currently parked in her driveway, Sgt. Pami and Ofcr. Colon made contact with Bonnie's friend, George Georgeles, who was currently inside of the residence, in an attempt to complete the 'Potential Liability' form for Bonnie's vehicle. After making contact with George, the form was explained to him, which he signed and acknowledged.

Bonnie was transported to Cedar Grove Police Headquarters for processing and to attempt to collect breath samples. Upon our arrival, Bonnie was again advised of her Miranda Warning, which she stated she understood. At that time, Bonnie was read the New Jersey Attorney General's Standard Statement form, which she replied "Yes."

Bonnie was then escorted to the Alcotest room. All electronics were removed from the room prior to the test being conducted. At this point, it was explained to Bonnie that she needed to provide two samples of her breath. The directions on how to properly provide the breath samples were read to her each time. After the

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directions were read, she indicated that she understood how to properly provide the sample. A new mouthpiece was affixed to the breath hose each time she provided a breath sample. While conducting the tests, it was evident that Bonnie was not following my instructions properly, and was purposefully not providing sufficient breath samples into the breath hose. She was afforded TEN (10) opportunities to supply a sample, all of which resulted in the "MINIMUM VOLUME NOT ACHIEVED" message being indicated from the Alcotest machine. At that time, Bonnie was advised that she would be charged with Refusal to Submit to Breath Testing.

Throughout the incident, Bonnie's statement changed from her only having "one drink" while out to lunch, to having "two to three ginger ale and vodka's" while at her home with her friends. She also stated that she is prescribed [REDACTED] which she also took on today's date in the late morning/early afternoon.

After the necessary paperwork was completed, contact was made with George, who advised he would be responding to Cedar Grove Police Headquarters to take custody of Bonnie. A short time later, George arrived and was provided a 'Potential Liability' form to take custody of Bonnie. The form was acknowledged and signed by George, and he was provided the original copy. Bonnie was released from our custody at approximately 2044 hours.

As a result of the arrest, Bonnie was issued the following motor vehicle summonses, with a mandatory Municipal Court date of 01/30/2025 at 1630 hours:

- E25000064 - 39:4-50 - Driving While Intoxicated
- E25000065 - 39:4-97 - Careless Driving
- E25000066 - 39:4-96 - Reckless Driving
- E25000067 - 39:4-88B - Traffic on Marked Lanes/Unsafe Lane Change
- E25000068 - 39:4-50.4A - Refusal to Submit to Chemical Tests

Note: My BWC footage was reviewed prior to writing this report.

---BWC---

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