



Westfield Police Department

425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Investigation Report



Incident Details:

Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
23-20549	22:03	05/06/23	22:03	05/06/23				X	X

Incident Type:		Incident Location:	
Driving While Intoxicated 39:4-50	Motor Vehicle - Accident - Leaving the	Street #	Street Name
		Central Avenue	
		Intersection / Cross Street of: Lenox Avenue	
Business / Common Location Name			

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

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Z1	Bryant, James			52	M	2B	REP	PII
Address						Home Phone	Cell Phone	
REP Roselle, NJ 07203-2724						PII		
A	Bryant, Lynda			56	F	2B	REP	PII
Address						Home Phone	Cell Phone	
REP Roselle, NJ 07203-2724							PII	
O	James, Sakeema			39	F	2B	REP	--
Address						Home Phone	Cell Phone	
REP Roselle, NJ 07203-2724						--	PII	
Z2	Cospito, Joshua		M	18	M	1B	REP	PII
Address						Home Phone	Cell Phone	
REP Clark, NJ 07066-2920						--	PII	

Property Information:

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

Automobile Information:

1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Color	Registration	State	VIN
1	Arrest	01	M B	4 DR	SL	L20LES	NJ	WDBNG75J21A141786
2	Veh. 2	10	CHE	2 DR	BK	T40RPH	NJ	2G1FK1EJ3A9141639
3								
4								

Narrative:

Operation of motor vehicle:
On Saturday May 6, 2023 at approximately 22:03 hours, I, Officer Perconte responded to the area of South Avenue and Central Avenue Westfield, New Jersey for a report of a motor vehicle crash between two vehicles. While en route, Westfield Police Dispatch advised that one of the vehicles involved in the crash was now leaving the scene headed North on Central Avenue towards the Central Business District of Westfield. The suspect vehicle that had fled the scene was reported to be a tan or silver colored Mercedes Benz.

(continued on page 2.)

Officer of Record:	Date:	Other Reports Filed:	Reviewed By:
Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209	05/06/23	MVA Arrest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DV DWI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWIQ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tow <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD CI TRO SHA Prop. Evidn UOF Prst Supp Juv Bias Pris	NBRU



Westfield Police Department
 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
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Investigation Report



Narrative Continued (Page 2)

Case Number
23-20549

Sergeant Bruno was responding to the area when he observed a vehicle matching the description in the area of Central Avenue and North Avenue. He then positioned his patrol vehicle to the rear of the suspect vehicle, activated his emergency lights, and conducted a motor vehicle stop in the area of Central Avenue and Lenox Avenue. The suspect vehicle that he had stopped at this time was identified as 2001 light colored Mercedes Benz S50 bearing New Jersey Registration "L20LES". Sergeant Bruno also advised me that while initiating this motor vehicle stop, the suspect vehicle struck the curb of the roadway when attempting to pull over. Officer Jacques arrived on scene to provide backup assistance for the motor vehicle stop.

Meanwhile, I responded to the area of South Avenue and Central Avenue to speak with the additional vehicle involved in the crash and the initial caller. At this time I positioned my patrol vehicle behind a black colored Chevrolet Camaro bearing New Jersey Registration "T40RPH". I then made contact with the driver of the vehicle, Joshua Cospito. It should be noted that at this time there was three other passengers in the vehicle, however he reported to me that he was the sole occupant of his vehicle when this collision occurred. He stated that he was parked on the curb line facing North on Central Avenue just prior to Harrow Road. He advised that he was picking up his current passengers from a residence in this area. As these passengers were approaching his vehicle to enter, he stated that an unknown vehicle at the time, struck the rear driver side bumper of his vehicle with its front passenger side bumper. The suspect vehicle then continued North on Central Avenue. Joshua and his passengers then proceeded to follow said vehicle and were able to obtain a further description. One of the passengers, Michael Benevento, who witnessed the crash, advised me that the registration of the vehicle was "L20LES" and was a light colored Mercedes. He also described the driver as a black female. Joshua also stated that when following to the rear of the suspect vehicle, it was swerving heavily in the roadway. I then made contact with Sergeant Bruno and reported the statements of the witnesses. It was then determined that Ms. Bryant was indeed involved in this collision. I gathered all of the necessary information from Joshua, and responded to Sergeant Bruno's location for a further investigation.

(continued on page 3.)

Officer of Record:	Date:
Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209	05/06/23



Westfield Police Department
 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
 Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Investigation Report



Narrative Continued (Page 3)

Case Number

23-20549

While stopped:

When he first approached the suspect vehicle, Sergeant Bruno advised me that the driver was argumentative and denied being involved in a motor vehicle collision. She appeared somewhat confused and stated she was heading home to Roselle, NJ. Sgt. Bruno allowed the driver, Ms. Bryant, to exit her vehicle and inspect the damage to her vehicle to which she continued to deny being involved in a collision. Next Sgt. Bruno confirmed the pregristration provided by a witness to the motor vehicle collision to match the registration of Ms. Bryant's vehicle. Upon my arrival on scene, I spoke with Ms. Bryant in regards to the accident. I also was able to observe damage to the front passenger side wheel of her vehicle. This damage was consistent with the crash investigation I conducted in the area of Central and South Avenue moments prior. When speaking with Ms. Bryant, she appeared to be confused as to what was transpiring. She denied any knowledge of being involved in an accident. She further stated that she was headed to her residence in Roselle, and coming from an event in Rahway. Her eyes were watery and her eyelids were droopy at this time. I detected a strong odor of what appeared to be some sort of perfume or fragrance emanating from her person. While speaking with her, she was swaying and appeared to have trouble keeping balance. When asked, she stated that she did not consume any alcoholic beverages prior to this incident. I then observed what appeared to be a fresh stain of possibly food or beverage on the left torso area of her clothing. I then requested Ms. Bryant to perform Standardized Field Sobriety Tests to which she agreed.

Alphabet:

Ms. Bryant indicated that she was familiar with the English Alphabet. I then asked her to recite the English Alphabet from the letter "C" to the letter "W". She then began with the letter "A" and recited the Alphabet in order until the final few letters which she struggled with. I repeated the instructions and she again started with the letter "A" and proceeded to recite the entire Alphabet until the last few letters which she again mumbled. She did not perform the test as instructed.

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus:

Ms. Bryant was instructed to follow the tip of the stimulus, which was a pen, with her eyes only and to not move her head, which she stated she understood. Prior to administering the test, I asked Ms. Bryant if she had any medical conditions that would affect her eyes, which she advised she did not. She also advised that she did not use contacts or glasses. Through the course of this test, Ms. Bryant exhibited lack of smooth pursuit in both her left and right eye. She also exhibited distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation in both her left and right eye. Finally, she exhibited an onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees in both her left and right eye. Vertical nystagmus was not observed in either eye.

(continued on page 4.)

Officer of Record:

Date:

Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209

05/06/23



Westfield Police Department
 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
 Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Investigation Report



Narrative Continued (Page 4)

Case Number
23-20549

Walk and Turn Nine Steps:

Ms. Bryant stated that she did not have any medical conditions that would affect her balance when asked prior to this test. It should be noted that these tests were conducted on a smooth, flat, and level surface, free of debris or deformities. Ms. Bryant was unable to hold the prescribed starting position by struggling with her balance, and not holding her feet in a proper heel to toe manner. While performing this test, she did not touch her steps in the proper heel to toe manner, she stepped off of the line several times. She took 15 steps initially, then turned improperly and returned taking 13 steps. She also raised her arms for balance. She did not perform this test as instructed.

One Leg Stand:

After instructing and demonstrating the test, Ms. Bryant was instructed to begin the test. While performing this test she raised her arms for balance several times. She also put her foot down to the ground several times and did not count in the proper manner. Her foot was not six inches raised off of the ground and her foot did not remain parallel to the ground as instructed. Ms. Bryant lost her balance, and at times was attempting to grasp onto Officer Jacques for assistance. She advised me that she could only perform this test if she was leaning onto something else for balance, and when advised to count in the appropriate manner she stated "you count, I'm concentrating". She did not perform the test as instructed.

At this time I placed Ms. Bryant under arrest for Driving While Intoxicated, N.J.S.A. 39:4-50. I handcuffed and searched the arrestee incident to arrest. Prior to placing Ms. Bryant in the rear passenger compartment of patrol vehicle #413, I visually and physically inspected the area with negative results. I then secured Ms. Bryant in the rear passenger compartment and affixed the appropriate safety belt for transport. I then transported her directly to Westfield Police Headquarters, and Officer Jacques followed in patrol vehicle #412.

Sergeant Bruno remained on scene with the suspect vehicle, and George's Towing was notified. George's Towing arrived on scene shortly thereafter and removed the vehicle from the roadway as per John's Law.

En Route to Westfield Police Headquarters:

Ms. Bryant was extremely quiet during the transport, and only mumbled a few words during this time period.

(continued on page 5.)

Officer of Record:	Date:
Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209	05/06/23



Westfield Police Department
 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
 Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Investigation Report



Narrative Continued (Page 5)

Case Number
23-20549

At Westfield Police Headquarters:

Upon our arrival at Westfield Police Headquarters, I assisted Ms. Bryant out of the rear passenger compartment of patrol vehicle #413 and searched said area with negative results. It should be noted that at this time, I was again able to detect the same strong odor of some sort of perfume or fragrance emanating from the rear passenger compartment. This odor was not present in the rear passenger compartment prior to placing Ms. Bryant there. Upon entering the processing area, I secured my duty firearm in the provided weapons locker. I handcuffed Ms. Bryant to the bench and processed her according to departmental standard operating procedures.

A twenty minute observation period of Ms. Bryant was conducted by Officer Jacques, Sergeant Bruno and I in the processing room of Westfield Police Headquarters. During this observation period, Ms. Bryant did not burp, belch, or regurgitate. Additionally, she did not place anything into her mouth. Ms. Bryant was read the NJ MVC Standard Statement to which she responded "yes".

Sergeant Bruno, a Certified Alcotest Operator, inspected Ms. Bryant's mouth and then advised Ms. Bryant of the following statement prior to the start of each test, "I want you to take a deep breath into the mouthpiece with one long continuous breath. Continue to blow until I tell you to stop. Do you understand these instructions?". Ms. Bryant then responded in the affirmative. The results of the Alcotest were a .15% BAC. The test results were then run through the State of New Jersey Alcotest Calculator and it indicated the the "Breath Samples Were Within Acceptable Tolerance". It should be noted that all electronic devices, including portable radios, and cellular devices were removed from the area during this testing.

After processing Ms. Bryant was released to her daughter, Sakeema James, who acknowledged and signed the New Jersey Potential Liability Form. Sameeka was provided with the original copy of said form as well. Ms. Bryant was also provided with a copy of the DWI Questionnaire and Alcohol Influence Report.

Officer of Record:	Date:
Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209	05/06/23



Westfield Police Department
 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
 Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Investigation Report



Narrative Continued (Page 6)

Case Number
23-20549

Motor vehicle summonses:

Ms. Bryant was issued the following Motor Vehicle summonses with a mandatory Westfield Municipal Court date of May 16, 2023 at 09:00 hours.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------|----------------------|--|
| E23 | 004511 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-50 | Driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor drugs |
| E23 | 004512 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-129(B) | Leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage |
| E23 | 004513 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-130 | Failure to report an accident |
| E23 | 004514 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-96 | Reckless driving |
| E23 | 004515 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-97 | Careless driving |

My MVR (mobile video recorder) and BWC (body worn camera) was activated and recording during this incident. The videos have been appropriately titled, categorized, and uploaded to AxonEvidence.com for further review. Refer to NJTR-1, DWI Questionnaire, DWI Report, Implied Consent Form, Potential Liability Form, Tow Report and DWI Last Drink Location Report for for further information.

Officer of Record:	Date:
Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209	05/06/23

96 05	1. Case Number 23-20549										118a 02	
97 01	10. Crash Occurred On: Central Avenue										118b ---	
98 07	2. Police Dept. of Westfield Code 01										119a ---	
99 05	3. Station/Precinct 75										119b ---	
100a 01	4. Date of Crash mm dd yy 05 06 23		5. Day of Week Sun M Tu W Th F Sa 6a		6. Time (use 2400 hrs.) 22 03		7. Municipality Code 2 0 2 0		8. Total Killed - -		120a 02	
100b 04	23. Veh.# 01		24. Policy No. 4568-35-52-77		25. NJ Ins. Code 148		53. Veh.# 02		54. Policy No. F10459609-3		120b ---	
101 02	26. Driver's First Name Lynda G Bryant 29. Sex F										121a 01	
102 01	27. Number & Street 1110 Rivington Street										121b ---	
103 01	28. City Roselle, New Jersey 07203-2724										---	
104 02	30. Eyes 02 DL Class D Restrictions --- Endorsements --- 31. State NJ										122 01	
105 06	32. Driver's License Number B7701 50067 54672					33. DOB mm dd yy 04 13 67		34. Expires mm yy 04/25		62. Driver's License Number		123 10
106 ---	35. Owner's First Name James -- Bryant					65. Owner's First Name Joshua M Cospito		63. DOB mm dd yy		64. Expires mm yy		124 04
107 ---	36. Number & Street 1110 Rivington Street					66. Number & Street 16 Canterbury Drive		67. City Clark, New Jersey 07066-2920		68. Make Chevrolet 69. Model Camaro 70. Color BK 71. Year 10 72. Plate No. T40RPH 73. State NJ		125 ---
108 01	37. City Roselle, New Jersey 07203-2724					74. VIN WDBNG 75J21 A1417 86		75. Expires 04/24		76. VIN 2G1FK 1EJ3A 91416 39		126a 28
109 01	38. Make Mercedes-		39. Model S50		40. Color SL		41. Year 01		42. Plate No. L20LES		126b ---	
110 01	44. VIN WDBNG 75J21 A1417 86					45. Expires 04/24		74. VIN 2G1FK 1EJ3A 91416 39		75. Expires 12/23		126c ---
111 01	48. Vehicle Removed to: Impounded as per John's Law.										126d ---	
112 ---	<input type="checkbox"/> Driven <input type="checkbox"/> Towed Disabled <input type="checkbox"/> Towed Disabled & Impounded <input type="checkbox"/> Left at Scene <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towed Impounded										126e 28	
113 ---	47. Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Police										127a 26	
114 ---	48. Alcohol Drug Test Given: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Refused Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breath <input type="checkbox"/> Blood <input type="checkbox"/> Urine Results: 0.15 % <input type="checkbox"/> Pending					49. Hazardous Material <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> On Board <input type="checkbox"/> Spill Hazard Class _____ Placard No. _____					127b ---	
115 ---	50. Carrier No. <input type="checkbox"/> USDOT <input type="checkbox"/> MC/MX <input type="checkbox"/> None					51. GVWR / GCWR (trucks & buses only) <input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 10,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 - 26,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 26,001 lbs.					127c ---	
116 01	50. Carrier No. <input type="checkbox"/> USDOT <input type="checkbox"/> MC/MX <input type="checkbox"/> None					80. Carrier No. <input type="checkbox"/> USDOT <input type="checkbox"/> MC/MX <input type="checkbox"/> None					127d ---	
117 01	50. Carrier No. <input type="checkbox"/> USDOT <input type="checkbox"/> MC/MX <input type="checkbox"/> None					81. GVWR / GCWR (trucks & buses only) <input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 10,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 - 26,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 26,001 lbs.					127e 26	
118 ---	52. Motor Carrier or Government Entity										128 28	
119 ---	Number & Street										129 01	
120 ---	City										130 01	
121 ---	Level of Autonomy 150 - AVAILABLE <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown					Level of Autonomy 152 - AVAILABLE <input type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown					131 07	
122 ---	135. Damage to Other Property <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If Yes, describe) <input type="checkbox"/> No										132 07	
123 01	Oper. 01 136. Charge 39:4-50 Operating while under the					137. Summons No. E23 04511					133 02	
124 02	Oper. 01 140. Charge 39:4-129B Leaving the scene of					141. Summons No. E23 04512					134 02	
125 ---	Oper. 01 138. Charge 39:4-96 Reckless Driving					139. Summons No. E23 04514					---	
126 ---	Oper. 01 142. Charge 39:4-97 Careless Driving					143. Summons No. E23 04515					---	

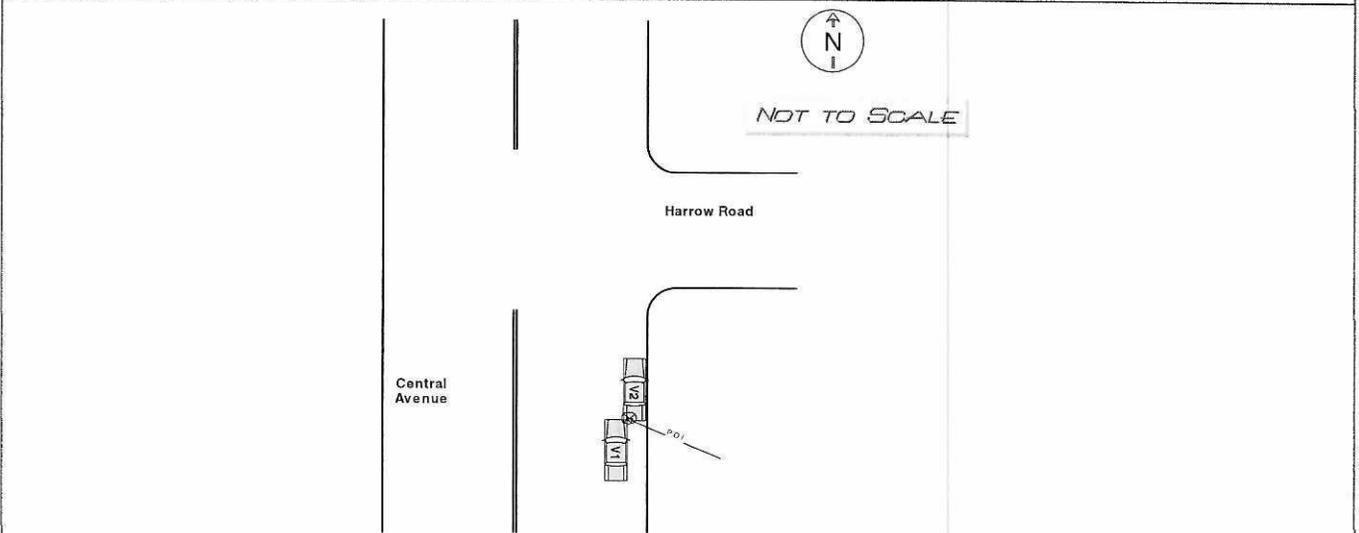
		83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	Names & Addresses of Occupants If Deceased, Date & Time of Death	
A	01	01	01	01	05	56	F	---	---	---	04	04	06	---	Bryant, Lynda-1110 Rivington St, Roselle, NJ 07203-2724	
B	02	01	01	01	05	18	M	---	---	---	04	04	06	---	Cospito, Joshua-16 Canterbury Dr, Clark, NJ 07066-2920	
C	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
D	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	

New Jersey Police
Crash Investigation Report

Case Number
23-20549

Page 2 of 2

	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	Names & Addresses of Occupants If Deceased, Date & Time of Death
E	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
F	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
G	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
H	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
I	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
J	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



145. Crash Description/Narrative

Vehicle 1 was traveling north on Central Avenue, approaching the intersection with Harrow Road. Vehicle 2 was parked on the north side of the roadway along the curb line. Vehicle 1's front passenger side bumper then struck the rear driver side bumper of vehicle 2. Vehicle 1 then fled the scene and continued north on Central Avenue. (**box 118a)

Driver 2 stated that while he was legally parked on the side of the roadway, vehicle 1 struck him from the rear. He was able to follow the vehicle, provide a further description and advise the police.

Once stopped, Driver 1 stated that she was not involved in an accident. I observed damage to the front right tire area of her vehicle which was consistent with the crash description that vehicle 2 had provided to me, as well as the damage to his vehicle.

Refer to investigation report 23-20549 for further, George's responded to the scene and removed vehicle 1 as per John's Law.

146. Officer's Signature Ptl. Anthony Perconte	147. Badge # 209	148. Reviewer NBRUNO	Badge # 174	149. Case Status <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete
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