



Westfield Police Department

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



Incident Details:									
Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
24-45720	22:24	11/08/24	22:24	11/08/24				X	X

Incident Type:			Incident Location:						
Driving While Intoxicated 39:4-50			Street #		Street Name		Apt #	Intersection / Cross Street of:	
MV Stop					West North Avenue			Whittier Avenue	
			Business / Common Location Name						
			Charlie Brown						

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

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
A	Hoffman, Melissa	A		33	F	2B	PII	PII	
Address						Email Address /		Other Phone	
REP Cranford, NJ 07016-2841						PII		PII	
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
O	George's Towing	--						--	
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone	
400 Trinity Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201						--		PII	
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
O	Hoffman, Todd	W		71	M	1B	PII	PII	
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone	
REP Cranford, NJ 07016-3185						PII			
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Email Address /		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone	

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

Automobile Information:									
1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State	VIN
	Arrest	2019	Dodge	WAGON	DUR	Blac	H28MXH	NJ	1C4RDJDG8KC652102
2									
3									
4									

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1. Operation Of Motor Vehicle

On Friday, 11/08/2024, at approximately 2221hrs, Officer Scanlon and I, Officer Jacques were dispatched to a leaving scene motor vehicle accident located St. Marks Avenue and St. Paul Avenue. Caller stated the driver was intoxicated and driving towards North Avenue toward the Westfield Diner. The caller gave the description of a Black SUV Dodge Durango, with the first characters of the New Jersey registration "H28M." Officer Scanlon responded to the scene while I drove the area. (Refer to CAD #24-45719) At this time, I was heading westbound on North Avenue approaching Crossway Place and made a left turn onto Crossway Place. I observed a dark color SUV make a wild right turn crossing over the double yellow line this is a violation of 39:4-97 (Careless Driving: likely to endangering person or property) from South Avenue West onto Crossway Place. I then observed the license plate of the vehicle to match the suspect vehicle "H28M". At this time, I placed my vehicle directly behind the suspect vehicle and conducted a motor vehicle stop at North Avenue West and Whittier Avenue.

2. While Stopped:

I approached the driver's side of the vehicle. I was able to observe the driver, later identified as Melissa Hoffman, to have bloodshot, watery eyes. I asked Melissa for her credentials. She was responding very slowly fumbling through paperwork. She was unable to provide her driver's license this is a violation of 39:3-29A (Fail to Poss Driver License). While speaking with me, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected emanating from interior of the vehicle where Melissa was seated. Melissa was the sole occupant of the vehicle. I asked Melissa where was she coming from she stated from work on St. Mark Avenue. At this time, I notified Westfield Dispatch I would be conducting a further investigation. Officer Bagan arrived on scene for further assistance.

I then asked Melissa to step out the vehicle and walk towards the rear of her vehicle. At this time, I observed Melissa to sway while she walked into place. Sgt Wierzbicki arrived on scene for assistance. At this time due to my observations Melissa was advised I would be conducting Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. Before testing, I asked Melissa if she had any head injuries or ailments that would prevent her from completing the tests and she stated "no." All tests were conducted on a smooth, flat, level and dry surface and clear of debris. Also prior to each test, I instructed and demonstrated each test. Melissa was asked prior to each test if she understood the instructions before starting them. The results of the tests are as follows:

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus:

During the HGN Test, I positioned myself approximately 15 inches from Melissa, ensuring there was adequate ambient lighting. I instructed her to follow the stimulus, which in this case was the tip of my pen, without moving her head. The specific clues I looked for during the test were; Melissa's eyes failed to exhibit smooth pursuit while attempting to track the stimulus, which was observed in both eyes. Distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation was observed in both eyes. Nystagmus prior to 45 degrees was detected in both eyes as well. Also Melissa struggled with following the pen with her eyes only in the beginning.

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Walk and Turn:

While explaining and demonstrating the instructions, Melissa failed to maintain the prescribed starting position. Specifically by having her feet apart and not keeping her feet in the proper starting position. Melissa failed to take the correct number of steps down the line (10 steps) and while returning back down the line. Melissa did not count each step out loud. Melissa did not do heel to toe during her walk. She was unable to complete the test as instructed.

One Leg Stand:

Melissa started counting with both feet still on the ground. Melissa raised her right leg for this test. Melissa was observed swaying as she attempted to keep her balance. She also miscounted during the observation she put her foot down after a few seconds, she was then instructed to continue the test. Melissa did not complete the test as instructed.

At this time, Melissa Hoffman was placed under arrest for Driving While Intoxicated, this in violation of N.J. S.A. 39:4-50. I handcuffed and searched the arrestee Melissa incident to arrest and prior to placing her in the rear prisoner compartment of patrol vehicle #412. I conducted a visual inspection of the rear prisoner compartment of patrol vehicle #412 prior to placing the arrestee Melissa in the same with negative results. I then secured the arrestee Melissa in the rear prisoner compartment with the provided seat belt and transported her directly to headquarters.

I requested a duty tow to respond to the scene to remove her vehicle from the road way as per John's Law. Sgt Wierzbicki remain with the vehicle until George's Towing and Recovery arrived on scene and removed the vehicle. While with the vehicle Sgt Wierzbicki observed fresh white paint transfer on the rear driver side bumper. It should be noted officers on scene were unable to located the keys to the vehicle. Melissa was also unable to let us know where she placed her keys.

3. En Route to Westfield Police Department Headquarters:

I, transported Melissa to the Westfield Police Headquarters without incident. A strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected from the rear prisoner compartment passenger seat where Melissa was solely seated. This odor was not present in the vehicle prior to placing Melissa in the prisoner compartment. The rear passenger compartment was checked before and after transport with negative results.

4. At WPD Headquarters

Upon arrival at headquarters, I assisted the arrestee Melissa out of the rear passenger compartment of patrol vehicle #412 as Melissa stepped out I observed her almost falling forward to the point where I had to catch her and hold her up. Next, I conducted a visual inspection of the rear prisoner compartment with negative results. Upon entering the processing area, Officer Bagan and I escorted the arrestee Melissa into the processing area and secured our duty firearms in the provided weapons locker. She was then secured to the processing room bench by the provided handcuff. We processed the arrestee in accordance with

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departmental SOPs.

Melissa consented to providing samples of her breath after the NJ Attorney General Standard Statement was read. The twenty minute observation started on November 9, 2024 at 00:09 hours. Subject then requested to use the restroom and the observation was terminated. The seconds twenty minute observation period was started at 00:29 hours. Upon asking subject to stand up to provide samples of her breath, she refused stating that she was "being held against her will". Officer Bagan advised Melissa that she would be charged with refusal and still refused to provide samples of her breath. Melissa continued to be noncompliant with officers, at this time she was charged with refusal.

Next, Melissa was advised she would be able to call someone to come pick her up. Melissa replied she has no one to call at this time. Melissa was then advised she would be placed in a prisoner cell if she doesn't call someone. Melissa was reluctant at this time. Melissa was then advised she would have to remove all jewelry and accessories before being placed in a prisoner cell. Melissa was reluctant to remove her jewelry and accessories. At this time, Melissa was handcuffed to the bench until, while officers worked on completing the necessary questionnaires. During this time, Melissa could be observed falling asleep on the bench. A short time after, Melissa fell off the bench and landed face first onto the ground. Officer assisted Melissa of the ground and inquired if she was injured or hurt. Melissa stated she was ok and not injured. For precautionary, the Westfield Rescue Squad was called to respond to Westfield Police Department for a medical evaluation. At this time, Melissa was cleared with an RMA.

At Headquarters, she was processed in accordance with Westfield Police Standardized Operating Procedures. It should be noted Melissa was reluctant to let this officer take her photo for the arrest report. Upon completion, she was released to her father Todd Hoffman (sober adult) who signed and acknowledged the Potential Liability Warning Form. Todd was provided with the original Potential Liability Warning Form. Melissa was provided a copy of the Drinking Driving Questionnaire and the Alcohol Influence Report upon her release.

Hoffman was issued the following summonses with a mandatory Westfield Municipal Court Date on November 19, 2024 at 09:00:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---|
| -2020 E24 008879 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-129D | Leaving the scene of a MVA |
| -2020 E24 008880 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-130 | Failure to report MVA |
| -2020 E24 008881 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-50 | Operating MV under influence of alcohol/drugs |
| -2020 E24 008882 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-97 | Careless driving |
| -2020 E24 008883 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.2 | Consent to take breath samples |
| -2020 E24 008884 | N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.4A | Refusal to provide breath samples |
| -2020 E24 008885 | N.J.S.A. 39:3-29A | Fail to possess Driver's License |
| -2020 E24 008886 | N.J.S.A. 39:3-29C | Fail to possess Insurance Card |

My MVR/BWC was activated and recording during this incident. This recording was titled, categorized appropriately, and uploaded into evidence.com for further review. Refer to CAD or Case #24-45720 for

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