



**8/26/2020**

**Press Release**

To: Area media outlets

From: Hampton Police Department

Re: Lafayette Road Crash and Arrest

On Tuesday August 25, 2020 at approximately 8:15pm the Hampton Police Department was alerted by the North Hampton Police Department that they were attempting to stop a motor vehicle headed south on Lafayette Road in North Hampton. The vehicle matched the description of a complaint that was received for Reckless Operation. Additionally, officers observed that the vehicle had a blown out tire and that the wheel was smoking while the operator continued driving. The vehicle had allegedly stopped and then resumed driving on several occasions prior to entering the town of Hampton.

The operator of the vehicle was later identified as:

**EILEEN WHITNEY, 62  
Newbury, MA**

Officers reported that, as the vehicle continued through Hampton, Whitney nearly collided with other vehicles as she swerved into the wrong lane and almost hit a pedestrian. In an effort to safely stop the vehicle, Hampton officers were able to take a position on Lafayette Road just north of the High Street intersection and set up a tire deflation device. Additionally, officers were able to safely block oncoming traffic from entering the area where the tire deflation device was being employed.

Officers were successful in deflating Whitney's vehicle tires. As Whitney drove through the deflation device, she crashed her vehicle into an unoccupied police cruiser, pushing the cruiser approximately 30 feet and nearly striking an officer.

Officers immediately made contact with Whitney with a primary concern for her safety and medical condition. Whitney was transported to the hospital by the Hampton Fire Department as a precaution. During the course of the investigation, officers developed probable cause to charge Whitney with Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs, Reckless Conduct, and Disobeying a Police Officer. Whitney is scheduled to appear in the Hampton District Court for arraignment on September 15, 2020 at 8:00am.

Press contact: Lieutenant Alex Reno  
603-929-4444 ext. 319  
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During this incident, speeds were within normal range and there were no reported major injuries.

Anyone with information related to this incident is urged to contact the Hampton Police Department at 603-929-4444. Anonymous tips can be made through the Crimeline for the Hamptons at 603-929-1222.

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