

## **Police: Woman, 27, Charged with DUI, Thought She Was in Stamford**

**Author :** David Gurliacci

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When a Darien police officer spoke with a woman, 27, later arrested on charges of driving while under the influence on Tokeneke Road, the woman was asked if she knew where she was parked, police said.

According to the police report, she responded that yes, she knew where she was: "I'm in Stamford."

Darien police described what happened with this account (including accusations not proven in court):

At about 6 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15, Darien police were called to a lawn in front of a business at 120 Tokeneke Road, where a white BMW was parked and a state police trooper was already on the scene.

The trooper said she had been flagged down by a driver on Interstate 95 who told her that a person in a vehicle appeared to be in distress on Tokeneke Road. The state trooper had been looking for a single-car motor vehicle accident somewhere between Exits 11 and 12 on the northbound traffic side of the highway.

The trooper found the car, still occupied by a 27-year-old woman, who appeared to be sleeping. When Darien officers arrived, the woman was alert and behind the wheel, with the engine running. She was speaking on her phone.

A police officer told her to end the call, and she did. Asked if she needed medical attention, she said she was

fine. She said she was coming from New York and was going home to Stamford.

That's when they asked her if she knew where she was, and she told them she was in Stamford. Asked how she ended up in the spot where she was parked, she said she wound up there "when you pulled me over."

Police officers smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from inside the vehicle when they spoke with her. Her eyes were bloodshot and glassy. Asked if she'd had anything to drink that night, she said she had, but she was fine.

When officers told her to step out of her car and take a field sobriety test, she was unsteady on her feet and had to lean against the vehicle to keep her balance. She didn't succeed in completing the field sobriety tests and lost her balance when she was doing one in which she was asked to step heel to toe in a straight line.

Police noticed significant damage along the entire length of the passenger side of the car, and it appeared to be fresh.

She was charged with driving while under the influence, driving with a suspended driver's license and failure to drive right. She refused to submit to a breath test for her blood-alcohol content at Darien Police Headquarters.

She was initially held on a \$500 bond and scheduled to appear Oct. 27 in state Superior Court in Stamford.