

## **DETROIT COP ARRESTED IN MYSTERIOUS CHASE CASE - INSPECTOR DRIVES UNMARKED CAR ON 3 TIRES FAILS BLOOD-ALCOHOL TEST**

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A Detroit Police inspector was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving early Friday after allegedly steering a wrecked, unmarked police car several miles, cutting a streak in the pavement with a tireless front rim along two interstates and several city streets.

Inspector **Ramona Shephard** of the 2nd (Schaefer) Precinct appeared to have hit a median on I-75 somewhere near I-94, around 2:30 a.m., police reports said. A motorist spotted the hobbled car and called police.

When the arresting officers stopped the unmarked Chevy Impala on St. Jean near Jefferson, they discovered an "unsteady" driver and gashes along the car's left side, police reports say. Reports also said **Shephard** blew a .21 on a breath alcohol test, more than twice the level at which someone can be convicted of drunken driving..

**Shephard** said she was being chased by an off-duty homicide sergeant, according to police reports. The motorist who originally spotted **Shephard** also said a police car was chasing the Impala. Police would not confirm whether **Shephard** was being chased.

The accident is the latest embarrassment for the police department, which is under federal monitoring after a long history of alleged civil rights violations and excessive use of force.

Last month, 17 current and former officers were indicted for allegedly shaking down suspected drug dealers and users.

U.S. Justice Department officials who investigated the department said they had never seen problems as entrenched as in the Detroit Police Department.

The department's ranking nightshift cop arrived at the scene Friday morning and took **Shephard** into custody, according to police reports. She was later released. Police wouldn't say whether bail was required. **Shephard**, 44, has been with the department for about 16 years. Police would not discuss **Shephard**'s employment status.

Deputy Chief Fred Campbell, who heads the department's professional accountability bureau, said the incident was under investigation. Police wouldn't comment on **Shephard**'s record with the department and no one was available at **Shephard**'s east-side Detroit home Friday afternoon.

After **Shephard** was stopped and investigators arrived, two officers retraced the Impala's path. Officers couldn't find where the Impala may have hit the median on I-75, but were able to follow pavement marks made by the exposed rim, police said.

The car was towed and is at the 5th (Jefferson) Precinct.

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Caption: Photo MARY SCHROEDER/Detroit Free Press; Map RICHARD JOHNSON/Detroit Free Press

Detroit Police Inspector **Ramona Shephard** was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving following an episode in which she allegedly drove this unmarked car without a driver's side front tire.

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