

DETROIT: WITNESS SAYS CHEF SMASHED INTO CARS - RESTAURANT OWNER TO BE ARRAIGNED

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Jimmy Schmidt, a prominent Detroit **chef** and restaurant owner, will be arraigned Tuesday in 36th District Court in Detroit on drunken-driving charges from a traffic accident last weekend.

Schmidt was arrested early Saturday outside Marshall's Bar on Detroit's east side after he allegedly **smashed into** several parked vehicles, Detroit police said.

Schmidt is well known in the culinary world for his RattleSnake Club at 300 River Place. His attorney, Joseph Boyer, said Tuesday he did not have a lot to **say** about the situation. On Saturday, he told the Free Press: "Jimmy's looking forward to being exonerated when he has his day in court."

Marshall's bartender, Mary Delise, 49, said that around 11:15 p.m. Friday, she and others heard a commotion.

"I was working and there was like a loud explosion outside where I work. I actually thought someone was hitting the building," Delise said. "Some customer said somebody kept hitting my **car** ."

Schmidt, in a 1995 Jeep Wrangler, also is said to have crashed **into** other parked vehicles. When confronted by patrons and vehicle owners, **witnesses** said Schmidt at first refused to get out. He then took off running, but was caught by one of the **car** owners.

Detroit police confirmed Tuesday that they took Schmidt **into** custody on drunken-driving charges.

Delise, whose 2003 Nissan Xterra sustained heavy damage, said she recognized Schmidt from his driver's license.

"I said, 'You're Jimmy Schmidt of the RattleSnake,' and he said, 'Yes, I am. That's why I'm saying I can take care of this.' "

She said his **car** insurance company has contacted her and offered to pay for a rental.

-- Staff writer Jennifer Dixon contributed to this report.

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