



## **NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

*February 17, 2010*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUBJECT: Car's Occupants Narrowly Escape Collision with Train, Driver Charged**

On Wednesday February 17 around 1:00 a.m., a Newark Police Officer was on patrol on West Main Street when he saw a passenger car in front of him leave the roadway and drive down the railroad tracks that run parallel to Elkton Road. The officer activated the emergency lights and siren of his patrol vehicle in an effort to alert the car's driver that the vehicle was no longer on the roadway, but the driver did not take notice. The car traveled over 100 feet down the tracks, straddling one of the rails, and the officer was not able to follow in his patrol car.

At that time, the officer observed the train crossing gates activate and heard a train horn blow. The officer could then see the train approaching the car in a head-on direction. The officer ran toward the car and yelled for the occupants to get out. One person exited from the driver seat; one from the front passenger seat. Within seconds of both getting out of the car, the train struck the car and pushed it from the tracks before coming to a stop.

The car, a 2004 Audi A4 sustained severe damage to its front end. Neither the driver nor passenger were injured. The train suffered no damage, and the tracks were cleared for train traffic after the car was removed.

**The driver:**

<b>Jennifer L. Murphy</b>	<b>12/23/1986 (23 years)</b>	<b>187 Joseph Ave, Westfield, MA</b>
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She was charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and other traffic offenses after her blood alcohol content was found to be over .220 (legal limit .08).

*The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

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