



Westfield Police Department
425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Incident Report

**Incident Details:**

Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
25-07333	22:12	02/18/25	22:12	02/18/25					X

Incident Type:

Resisting Arrest / Eluding 2C:29-2
Pursuit - Vehicle
Warrant Arrest NCIC

Incident Location:

Street # Street Name Apt # Intersection / Cross Street of:
West South Avenue Central Avenue
Business / Common Location Name

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Z1	Kimball, Casandra	M		34	F	1A	PII	PII	
Address									Email Address / Other Phone
33 Chestnut Ridge Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733									-- --
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
S	Cosme-Cruz, Marcello	J		30	M	1A	PII	PII	
Address									Email Address / Phone Other Phone
1005 Murphy Drive, Oceanport, NJ 07703									-- --
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
C	Holmdel Police Department								
Address									Email Address / Phone Other Phone
4 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733									-- 732-946-4400
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
O	Plainfield Police Department	--						--	
Address									Email Address / Phone Other Phone
200 East 4th Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060									9087533131 --
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address									Email Address / Phone Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address									Email Address / Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address									Email Address / Phone Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address									Email Address / Phone Other Phone

Property Information:

Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:

	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State	VIN
1	Suspect	06	Lexus	4 DR	GS	Silve	N83SCL	NJ	JTHCH96S360015649
2									
3									
4									

Officer of Record:	Date:	Reviewed By:	Case #:	Page 1
Ptl. Donald Picciano 208	02/18/25	rgill	25-07333	



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On February 18, 2025 at approximately 2212 hours, I, Officer Picciano, was assigned to patrol District Three in marked police vehicle #423. At that time, I was stationary facing East South Avenue near Central Avenue when I observed what I believed to be an older model silver-colored Honda Civic bearing New Jersey registration "N83SCL" traveling West on East South Avenue. When this vehicle passed my location, I observed a young Hispanic male driver operating the vehicle, as well as a female seated in the front passenger seat. It is important to note that I also observed heavy front end damage on this vehicle as it passed my location.

I then conducted a random license plate inquiry of the above registration utilizing my patrol vehicle MDT (Mobile Data Terminal). This inquiry revealed that the above registration came back to a silver-colored Lexus sedan. It should be noted that I also observed an NCIC Wanted Person "hit" in relation to the above stated registration. This warrant was issued by the Holdmel Police Department for the arrest of Marcello Cosme-Cruz, a thirty year old Hispanic male (Warrant # 2025 000031 - N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b(2) Aggravated Assault With A Deadly Weapon, A Second Degree Crime).

At that time, I reasonably believed the suspect vehicle to be a Honda sedan bearing a fictitious or stolen license plate that was registered to a Lexus. As I attempted to gather more information regarding the vehicle's registration and the above stated warrant, the suspect vehicle abruptly accelerated through the red illuminated traffic signal at the intersection of East South Avenue and Central Avenue and started to travel at a high rate of speed west on West South Avenue. (This in violation of N.J.S.A 39:4-81 Failure To Obey Traffic Signal and N.J.S.A. 39:4-96 Reckless Driving). The above actions by the suspect vehicle posed a serious risk and danger to the public and other vehicles on the roadway.

I activated my overhead emergency lights to safely travel through the intersections and attempt to make a motor vehicle stop with the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle then continued traveling west on West South Avenue at a high rate of speed and deactivated its headlights and taillights (This in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:3-47A No lights). The vehicle continued to travel a high rate of speed and began to travel north into the NJ-28 Traffic Circle. Once the vehicle crossed under the Lincoln Plaza bridge, it abruptly made an illegal U-turn to continue back onto West South Avenue (This in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:3-125 U-Turn). While the vehicle was making the U-turn, my patrol vehicle was positioned perpendicular to the suspect vehicle. At that time, I was able to clearly observe the face of the Hispanic male in the driver seat.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, including my training and experience dealing with stolen vehicles in the Union County area, I believed that the suspect vehicle was a stolen motor vehicle. The suspect vehicle again failed to stop and disregarded my attempts to conduct a motor vehicle stop, continuing to drive in a manner that created a serious risk and danger to the public and other vehicles on the roadway. At that time, the suspect vehicle initiated pursuit. I continued to update Westfield Central Dispatch of the conditions of the pursuit as I followed the suspect vehicle West on West South Avenue with my emergency lights and sirens activated. Officer Albanese in patrol vehicle #424, accompanied by Officer Perconte, followed behind my patrol vehicle as the secondary pursuing vehicle. From Central Dispatch, Sergeant Gill continued to monitor the pursuit conditions and update surrounding jurisdictions of the pursuit. Sergeant Gill also authorized continuation of the pursuit as we continued to travel West on West South Avenue.

Officer of Record:	Date:	Reviewed By:	Case #:	Page 2
Ptl. Donald Picciano 208	02/18/25	rgill	25-07333	



Westfield Police Department
425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
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Incident Report



For the duration of this pursuit, there was light vehicular traffic present on West South Avenue. As the pursuit continued West on West South Avenue, the suspect vehicle passed other vehicles on the wrong side of the roadway against traffic (This in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-88C Traffic on Marked Lanes). Considering the safety of the public and the reckless nature in which the suspect vehicle was being operated, I then terminated the pursuit in the area of La Grande Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023, approximately one mile from where the pursuit was initiated. All units in the area stopped following the vehicle, immediately deactivated our overhead emergency lights and sirens and pulled over to the shoulder of the roadway.

Upon further of my MVR video footage following the pursuit, the suspect vehicle was identified as a silver colored Lexus bearing the correct registration, "N83SCL". It should be noted that due to the quick manner in which this incident unfolded as well as the reckless operation of the suspect vehicle, it was mistakenly identified as a Honda sedan. The initially observed heavy front end damage on the suspect vehicle also made it difficult to properly identify.

Subsequent to the above stated incident, the same suspect vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle crash near the 1400 block of South Avenue in Plainfield, New Jersey at 2217 hours, approximately five minutes after Westfield Police Department personnel terminated pursuit. Plainfield Police Department personnel positively identified the driver of the suspect vehicle as Marcello Cosme-Cruz. It should be noted that after Cosme-Cruz was identified, I conducted a follow-up investigation at which time I was able to observe a New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission database photograph of Cosme-Cruz. The NJMVC photograph I observed of Cosme-Cruz was a positive matched to the male driver that I observed operating the suspect vehicle during the pursuit. I also observed additional photographs of Cosme-Cruz from the crash scene in Plainfield, NJ, which were also a positive match. Cosme-Cruz was taken into custody by the Plainfield Police Department on the strength of the following warrants. He was transported to Robert Wood Johnson Trauma Center, New Brunswick, NJ for further medical and physiological evaluation:

Holmdel Police Department NCIC Wanted Person - Warrant # 2025 000031
Hazlet Police Department NCIC Wanted Person - Warrant # 2025 000043

Following the positive identification of Marcello Cosme-Cruz as the driver of the suspect vehicle from the above incident, Sergeant Gill contacted Union County Assistant Prosecutor C. Johnson in regards to criminal charges. The following complaint warrant was approved and issued for the arrest of Marcello Cosme-Cruz:

2020 W 2025 000026 - N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2B Eluding (A Second Degree Crime)

Cosme-Cruz was also issued the motor vehicle summonses in regards to this incident:

2020 E25 001811 // 39:4-81A // Failure to Obey Traffic Signal
2020 E25 001812 // 39:3-47A // Failure to use Lighted Lamps when Required
2020 E25 001813 // 39:4-125 // U- Turn on Curve/Grade or where View Obstruct U-Turn Sign
2020 E25 001814 // 39:3-70.2 // Air Pollution (Emission of Smoke or Contaminants)

Officer of Record:	Date:	Reviewed By:	Case #:	Page 3
Ptl. Donald Picciano 208	02/18/25	rgill	25-07333	



Westfield Police Department

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Incident Report



2020 E25 001815 // 39:4-98 // Speeding

2020 E25 001816 // 39:4-88C // Traffic on Marked Lanes: Center Line Violation

2020 E25 001817 // 39:4-97 // Careless Driving: Likely to Endanger People or Property

2020 E25 001818 // 39:4-96 // Reckless Driving

Following the issuance of the above stated warrant, Officer Perconte and I, Officer Picciano, responded to Robert Wood Johnson Trauma Center in New Brunswick to take custody of Marcello Cosme-Cruz. At the time of this report, Cosme-Cruz remains in the custody of Westfield Police Department personnel until he is cleared for processing and incarceration.

All officers involved in the above stated pursuit completed entries into the Use of Force Portal.

All Officer's MVR/BWC were activated and recording during this incident. This record was titled, categorized appropriately, and uploaded into evidence.com for further review. Refer to Westfield Police Department CAD #25-07333 and Plainfield Police Department Case #25-006523 for further information. There is nothing further to report.

Officer of Record:	Date:	Reviewed By:	Case #:	Page 4
Ptl. Donald Picciano 208	02/18/25	rgill	25-07333	



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Arrest Report

**Arrest Details:**

Case Number	Arrest Date	Arrest Time	Place of Arrest
25-07333	02/26/25	22:12	Robert Wood Johnson, 125 Paterson Street, New Brunswick.

Arrestee Information:

Name (Lastname, Firstname)	M I	Suffix	Alias - Nickname				
Cosme-Cruz, Marcello	J		N/A				
Address	DOB	Age	Sex	Race	SSN		
1005 Murphy Drive, Oceanport, New Jersey 07703	01/23/95	30	M	1A	PII		
Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Complexio	Mar. Status	
Asbury Park	5'7	115	BLK	BRO	Fair	Sin	
Other Descriptive Info	Glasses	Build	Speech	Handed	Miranda	Prints	Photo
	N	Slim	English	Right	Y	Y	Y
Occupation	Employer	Bus. Address					
N/A	Disabled	N/A					
SBI #	FBI #	Phone	Email				
947288E	868109TDO	PII	--				

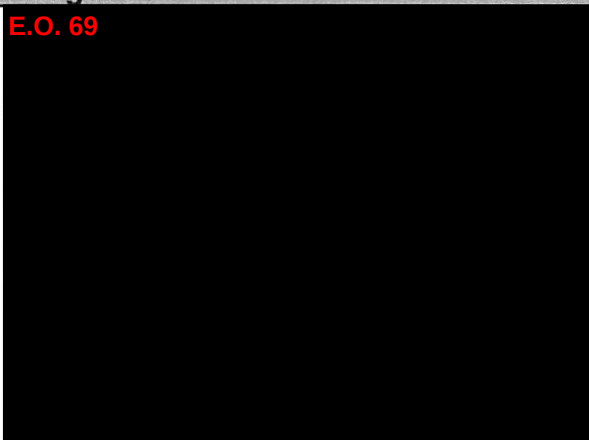
Complaint Information

2C:29-2B Eluding							
Complainant Name (Lastname, Firstname)				& Address			
Ptl. Donald Picciano 208							
Offense Date	Offense Time	Place of Offense				Mun. Code	
02/19/25	04:01	West South Avenue/ Central Avenue				NJ012240	
w/ Warrant	w/o Warrant	On View	Summons	Handcuffed The Arrestee	Checked car prior to placing in & after removing arrestee from the back seat		
X		X		Y	Y		
Vehicle	Yr	Make	Body Type	Color	Reg	State	VIN
Susp	06	Lexus	4 DR	Silver	N83SCL	NJ	JTHCH96S360015649
Date	Court	Warrant / Summons Number					
04/10/25	Union County Superior Court	2020 W 2025 000026					
Amount Bail	10%	Bail Result	Place Committed				
			TOT Union County Jail				
Next of Kin		Next of Kin Address			Next of Kin Phone		
Casandra Kimball		33 Chestnut Ridge Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733			732-351-6146		

Narrative:

Marcello J. Cosme-Cruz of 1005 Murphy Drive, Oceanport, New Jersey 07703 was placed under arrest on 2/19/25 at approximately 0401 hours at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, 125 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 in reference to a motor vehicle pursuit that resulted in his charges for Eluding. Cosme-Cruz was medically and psychologically cleared from Robert Wood Johnson, then transported to Westfield Police Headquarters where he was processed and charged on the following Westfield Complaint Warrant (2020 W 2025 000026):

2C:29-2B - Resisting Arrest / Eluding (A Second Degree Crime)

Mugshot:**Officer of Record:****Date:****Reviewed By: Juvenile Released To:****Time:**

Officer of Record	Reporting Date	Reviewed By	Parent or Responsible Party Signature
Ptl. Donald Picciano 208 Ptl. Anthony Perconte 209	02/26/25	rgill	



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425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
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Supplemental Investigation Report

**Incident Details:**

Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
25-07333A		02/18/25		02/18/25					X

Incident Type:

Investigation Follow-Up

Incident Location:

Street # Street Name Apt # Intersection / Cross Street of:
West South Avenue Central Avenue
Business / Common Location Name

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address /		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address /		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Email Address / Phone		Other Phone

Property Information:

Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:

1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State	VIN
2									
3									
4									

Officer of Record:	Date:	Reviewed By:	Case #:	Page 1
Sgt. Richard Gill 199	02/18/25	rgill	25-07333A	



Westfield Police Department
425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090
Phone: 908-789-4000 Fax: 908-789-4007 Mun. Code: 2020
Supplemental Investigation Report



The purpose of this report is to document my actions as a Patrol Supervisor during an incident involving Westfield Police Officers pursuing a suspect vehicle. Lieutenant Maloney was also present inside Westfield Communications Center at the time of this incident, as she also assisted in providing oversight and instruction to our units involved in this incident.

On February 18, 2025 at approximately 2212 hours, I, Sergeant Gill, was assigned as a Patrol Supervisor inside of Westfield Police Department Communications Center. At that time, Officer Picciano observed a silver colored sedan with heavy front end damage while monitoring traffic in the area of West South Avenue and Central Avenue. Based on Officer Picciano's observations, as well as information that he received from a license plate inquiry, Officer Picciano believed that the suspect vehicle was a silver colored Honda sedan bearing fictitious New Jersey registration "N83SCL", which came back to a silver colored Lexus sedan. As Officer Picciano continued to gather information regarding the suspect vehicle, it fled the area at a high rate of speed, disregarding a red illuminated traffic signal at the intersection. Officer Picciano then attempted to conduct a traffic stop with the suspect vehicle, at which time it deactivated it's front and rear lamps and continued to flee at a high rate of speed. Officer Picciano determined that the manner in which the suspect vehicle was being operated posed a serious risk and danger to the public and other vehicles on the roadway.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, Officer Picciano also believed that the suspect vehicle was a stolen motor vehicle attempting to avoid apprehension. At that time, a pursuit was initiated. Officer Picciano, in vehicle #423, acted as the lead pursuit vehicle in this incident while Officer Albanese, accompanied by Officer Perconte, acted as the secondary pursuit vehicle in vehicle #424. As the pursuit continued West on West South Avenue, Officer Picciano relayed the conditions of the pursuit to Westfield Police Department Communications. At that time, I authorized the above stated units that they were clear to continue the pursuit.

Briefly after continuation, Officer Picciano advised that our units were terminating pursuit of the suspect vehicle in the area of La Grande Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey. All units were advised by Lieutenant Maloney to pull their patrol vehicles to the side of the roadway and deactivate their emergency lights and sirens. An alert was broadcasted over the Union County Hotline to notify surrounding jurisdictions of this incident.

It should be noted that approximately five minutes after termination of this pursuit, the suspect vehicle involved was reported to have crashed in Plainfield, New Jersey, approximately one and a half miles from the location in which our units had terminated the pursuit. The driver of the suspect vehicle was apprehended by Plainfield Police Department personnel. A complaint warrant was later approved for the arrest of the driver of the suspect vehicle.

Refer to Westfield Police Department Case #25-07333 and Plainfield Police Department Case # 25-006523 for further information.

Officer of Record:	Date:	Reviewed By:	Case #:	Page 2
Sgt. Richard Gill 199	02/18/25	rgill	25-07333A	