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Former Weston police chief charged in drunken driving accident

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By **Matt Rocheleau**, *Globe Correspondent*

A former Weston police chief has been charged with his third drunken driving offense in connection with an accident earlier this month that hospitalized an 82-year-old woman and two other people, according to court records reviewed today.

James J. McShane, 62, a Waltham native who now lives in Natick, pleaded not guilty to the most-recent allegations at a Nov. 16 arraignment. He was charged with his third offense of OUI, as well as marked lanes violation, court records say.

McShane resigned from his post as police chief after being charged with drunken driving in 1995, according to a *Globe* article. His lawyer, Peter Bella of Waltham, declined to comment today.

On Nov. 14, McShane's car collided with another vehicle on Route 30 in Weston, sending an 82-year-old passenger in the other vehicle to Newton-Wellesley Hospital, where, according to family members she spent nearly two weeks recovering from multiple injuries including broken bones. She is now out of the hospital but is expected to need surgery.

The 43-year-old driver of her car and another passenger, aged 13, also went to the hospital and were released the night of the accident with minor injuries.

Both vehicles had heavy front-end damage, according to a police report on file at Waltham District Court.

When Weston police arrived to the scene, they observed McShane was unsteady on his feet, slurred his words, had a flushed face and a faint odor of alcohol, the report said. He failed three different sobriety tests and refused a breathalyzer, the report said.

McShane told police he was on his way home from a friend's house where he had drank two beers two hours prior, said the report.

McShane could not immediately be reached for comment. He is scheduled to return to court for a pre-trial hearing on Dec. 28.



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