

Amity official faces DUI charges in Stowe crash

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WEST POTTS GROVE — An Amity Township supervisor involved in a two-vehicle crash Feb. 11 that injured a 3-year-old child was charged Friday with driving under the influence and related offenses.

Terry Jones, 46, of the 100 block of Worman Road in Amity, was charged with misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence, counts of second-degree misdemeanor recklessly endangering another person and a summary offense of careless driving, according to court records.

Also charged Friday was Shannon Nester, the 24-year-old Stowe woman who was operating the vehicle Jones allegedly drove into the path of.

Nester had a 3-year-old girl “unrestrained” in her Mitsubishi, police previously said, and charges of endangering the welfare of children, recklessly endangering another person, and restraint systems were filed against her Friday.

The charges were filed by West Pottsgrove Detective Sgt. Steven J. Ziegler and Officer Brian D. Cass in District Judge Thomas A. Palladino’s court Friday. According to Montgomery County Assistant District Attorney Lauren McNulty, Jones and Nester are tentatively slated to surrender to authorities on March 8 to be formally arraigned on the charges. At that time, Judge Palladino will set bail and schedule preliminary hearings for Jones and Nester.

With the charges, according to McNulty, West Pottsgrove police alleged that Jones’ blood-alcohol content at the time of the crash was 0.091 percent. The legal blood-alcohol content for Pennsylvania drivers is 0.08 percent.

“During the car crash, he hit a car carrying a 24-year-old woman, Shannon Nester, and her 3-year-old daughter,” alleged McNulty, explaining the significance of the two counts of recklessly endangering others that were filed against Jones.

Nester faces charges of child endangerment because authorities alleged she did not have proper restraint systems in place for her child in her vehicle at the time of the crash.

“When police responded to the accident scene, the little girl was in the back seat and there was no child seat in the car or any indication that she was even belted in,” McNulty alleged.

According to West Pottsgrove Police, Jones was behind the wheel of a 2000 Ford Explorer when he turned onto West High Street from the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot just west of the intersection with Grosstown Road around 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11. Jones allegedly drove his Ford into the path of Nester's oncoming Mitsubishi.

Ziegler previously told The Mercury the investigating officer "detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage about (Jones') person" and ordered that blood be drawn from Jones to test for intoxication. Ziegler said ordering blood be drawn is standard procedure "if the officer even thinks he detects an odor." The results of Jones' blood test showed his blood alcohol was above the legal limit at the time of the crash.

After the crash, Jones, 46, was taken to Pottstown Memorial Medical Center.

Both Nester and her 3-year-old daughter, whose name police have not released, were taken to Lehigh Valley Medical Center, Nester by ambulance and the girl by helicopter, Ziegler said. They have both been released.

Jones was elected as an Amity Township supervisor in 2009 along with Paul Weller. Jones received 913 votes. Jones is also a supervisor with the Pottstown Public Works Department.