



# Boca Raton

POLICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION  
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## Boca Raton Police Statement

On May 22, 2023, just after 11:00 a.m., Boca Raton Police officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the entrance of the Mobil gas station at 8081 Congress Avenue. The caller advised a male was standing outside a black Cadillac and was not letting a female leave the area. As the male yelled at her through the window, the caller also advised a young child was running around the exterior of the car. The caller called back concerned that the child could get run over because the adults were not paying attention and that the male was pounding on the vehicle. Prior to the officers contacting them, the male gained entry into the vehicle. Officer McNichol's body-worn camera footage, which is circulating social media, shows Officer Fowler and Officer McNichol make contact with the male, female and three children to investigate the disturbance and check on their wellbeing. The male (later identified as Harry Hardy) told the officer that he was having a dispute with the female (later identified as Nerillia Laurent) and was trying to get into the car. Pursuant to a potential domestic disturbance investigation and the fact that the vehicle was illegally parked, Officer McNichol requested identification from Hardy and Laurent, and they both refused.

Officer McNichol continued to ask Laurent, who was in the driver's seat, for her driver license and she refused. The officer explained to her that she would be arrested if she did not provide her license and she said that she did not care. She yelled that she would not provide her license and after refusing to provide her license several times, the officer removed her from the vehicle by force to place her in handcuffs. Hardy, who was sitting in the rear seat, exited the vehicle and moved toward Officer McNichol. Officer Fowler put his hands in front of Hardy's chest and told him to stop. At that time Hardy pushed the officer's hands away and continued to approach Officer McNichol. Laurent was handcuffed and placed in the back of a marked patrol vehicle. Boca Raton Fire Rescue was called to check on Laurent and after getting medical clearance, she was taken to county jail. Hardy was placed under arrest without further incident.

Nerillia Laurent was charged with Resisting an Officer Without Violence and was issued a citation for No Valid Driver License. Laurent was also arrested for an active warrant out of Palm Beach County for Failure to Appear, Driving While License Cancelled, Suspended or Revoked, and Giving a False Name Upon Being Arrested or Detained.



Harry Hardy was charged with Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer.