

# Ferndale cops: Elena Ford's breath test over the limit

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**DETROIT FREE PRESS**

**APRIL 6, 2011**

Ford auto executive Elena Ford registered a 0.14% blood-alcohol level after Ferndale police said her speeding 2011 Ford Explorer jumped a median curb Sunday.

With glassy eyes, flushed face and slurred speech, Ford told police she'd had two drinks before driving but no alcohol in the previous hour, the report said. A preliminary breath test at the time of her arrest registered a blood-alcohol level of 0.18% and later was measured at 0.14%, according to the report. The blood-alcohol level at which someone can be convicted of drunken driving in Michigan is 0.08%.

She was arrested for operating under the influence with occupant younger than 16 and faces a child-endangerment charge. Her 11-year-old son was picked up by a family attorney soon after the arrest at 10:30 p.m., police said.

Ford, who was handcuffed after the arrest and placed in a

patrol car, stayed in the Ferndale police lockup until 3:15 a.m. Monday when she paid a \$500 bond and was released, court records said.

A hearing date for her arraignment and preliminary exam is to be announced today, court officials said.

The charge carries a wide sentencing range, from five days to a year in jail and fines of \$200 to \$5,000.

Ford has a clean driving record for the last seven years, as far back as state records show.

"I don't see any jail time," Bloomfield Hills attorney and drunken-driving specialist Bob Larin said of a first-time drunk-en-driving offender.

"I've had many of these child endangerments, first offense, and nobody went to jail," said Larin, 76, who is co-author of a book on drunken-driving defense.

"The fine is generally commensurate with the defendant's

ability to pay. I imagine that she would pay at the high end," he said.

Ford, 44, is the great-great-granddaughter of Henry Ford and has been the automaker's director of global marketing, sales and service since Feb. 1, 2009.

Ford was swerving and speeding at 50 in a 35-m.p.h. zone on Woodward, north of 9 Mile, heading toward her home in Birmingham, when her SUV drove over the curb, the police report said.

A statement issued Tuesday by Ford's attorney, Todd Flood, said: "Ms. Ford recognizes that this is a very serious matter, and she expresses her deepest apologies for the embarrassment this has caused."

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