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Suspect's dog attacks police

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BANTAM - A New Milford man has been charged with fleeing the scene of an accident, fighting with police and ordering his dog to attack officers.

Police charge that Barry DiMaria, 26, smelled of alcohol and was belligerent when Officer Brian Glasser questioned him about the accident at DiMaria's front door, according to the report. Police said he punched Officer James Brady and yelled, "Max, get him" to his Ger-man Shepherd dog, who bit Officer William Parks in the left thigh.

DiMaria spit at Parks during the struggle. After police used pepper spray to subdue DiMaria, he kicked Officer Ron Nunnink and grabbed his leg as he was put into the cruiser.

Parks was treated for a puncture wound and released from New Milford Hospital. The other officers suffered minor injuries.

New Milford Animal Control has custody of Max, police said.

The accident victim was not injured, police said.

DiMaria, of 12 Bullymuck Road, pleaded not guilty Thursday in Bantam Superior Court to four charges of assaulting a police officer, second-degree assault, attempt to commit assault, third-degree criminal mischief, and following too close.

DiMaria, a service technician, posted a \$45,000 bond following an arraignment hearing before Judge Heidi Winslow.

He is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 15 with his attorney Randall Breeckner.

DiMaria is on probation for an August conviction for evading the scene of an accident.

Assistant State's Attor-ney Magdalena Campos called for a \$50,000 bond due to the severity of the charges.

"He is a homeowner and is no dangerous flight risk," Breeckner said.

DiMaria reportedly rear-ended a red PT Cruiser driven by a New Milford woman on Kent Road near Bridge Street at 10:25 p.m. on Wednesday, and fled the scene, New Milford police reported.

DiMaria's blue 1979 Ford Bronco matched the vehicle from the accident and had damage to the front fender and grill, according to a police report.

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