Township of Monroe
County of Middlesex

**GRIFFIN M. BANOS**
**Chief of Police**

*DEPARTMENT OF POLICE*:
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3 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

***For Immediate Release: November 12, 2026***

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**Driver Arrested Following Investigation of Vehicle Traveling Without Front Wheel**

MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ – On November 6, 2026, officers from the Monroe Township Police Department responded to a report of a vehicle swerving along the roadway with sparks coming from underneath it.

Officer Jake Lloyd and his K9 partner, Storm, located the vehicle on Union Valley-Half Acre Road and observed that it was missing a front wheel. The investigation revealed that the vehicle had become disabled a short distance away, where the driver attempted to change the tire before continuing to drive without the wheel. While a missing wheel would typically bring a trip to an immediate stop, the driver apparently had other plans.

Officers investigated the possibility of impaired driving and determined that impairment was not a factor.

During the investigation, officers were unable to confirm the driver's identity at the scene. The driver was taken into custody and transported to Monroe Township Police Headquarters, where he was subsequently identified as Juan Rivera III of Glassboro, New Jersey. A records check revealed that Rivera had outstanding warrants from Pennsylvania and Hamilton Township, New Jersey.

Rivera was unable to provide vehicle registration or proof of ownership at the scene, and the vehicle was subsequently towed. During a follow-up investigation, officers located the vehicle's owner and determined that it had been stolen from a dealership. Additional criminal charges related to the stolen vehicle are pending.

Rivera was lodged at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Center, pending extradition to Pennsylvania by the Bucks County Sheriff's Office.