

# Office of the Sheriff



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## PRESS RELEASE

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On Friday, October 28, 2022, at about 10:05 a.m. Broome County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a one-car motor vehicle accident on State Route 17C in the Town of Union. Upon arrival they located 39-year-old Hector Figueroa in the driver's seat of a 2013 Mazda sedan. The investigation determined Figueroa was traveling eastbound on State Route 17C when he left his lane of travel, crossed both westbound lanes, struck an earth embankment and a utility pole. Witness accounts stated Figueroa had been swerving and had struck the curb on Hooper Road a short time before the accident. Figueroa was not wearing his safety belt and sustained minor injuries in the collision. He was transported to Wilson Regional Medical Center. While being treated for his injuries Figueroa was having difficulty staying awake.

Deputies located a powdery substance on Figueroa's person that field tested positive for the presence of fentanyl. Figueroa consented to providing a sample of his blood for analysis. He was charged with the offenses listed below and directed to appear in Court at a later date. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

Charges:

Criminal possession of a controlled substance 7<sup>th</sup> degree, a misdemeanor  
Operating a motor vehicle while the registration is suspended, a misdemeanor  
Uninspected motor vehicle, a violation  
Operating a motor vehicle without wearing a safety belt, a violation  
Moved from lane unsafely, a violation  
Drove to left of pavement markings, a violation

Additional charges are possible pending laboratory analysis of Figueroa's blood sample. A certified drug recognition expert was not available at the time of accident investigation.