

## State trooper to serve one day in jail for her actions following a wreck in Spotsylvania

Keith Epps

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**A** Virginia State Police trooper who was convicted of two misdemeanors as the result of her actions following an on-duty crash last year in Spotsylvania County will have to serve a day in jail.

Myranda Walker, 26, of Ashland, was convicted in July in Spotsylvania Circuit Court of destruction of property and filing a false police report. She was sentenced Tuesday by Judge Ricardo Rigual to a total of 180 days in jail with all but two days suspended.

Because the offenses are misdemeanors, Walker will only have to serve one day. Rigual allowed her to report to jail at a later date.

The single-vehicle crash took place on May 7, 2022, on Guinea Station Road in Spotsylvania. Walker was heading east when her police cruiser entered a curve, crossed the centerline and ran off the left side of the highway.

The evidence presented by prosecutors Stephanie Fitzgerald and Ryan Mehaffey showed that the cruiser struck a tree, overcorrected and crossed back to the right side of the road. Walker was not seriously injured.

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Walker, who was outside the area she was supposed to be covering, told investigators initially that another vehicle had caused her to crash, something she later admitted was a lie. She also said she lost control after feeling a sharp pain in her ribs stemming from a horse-riding incident a few weeks earlier.

She broke the DVD in the patrol vehicle's dashboard camera in half in an apparent attempt to cover her initial lie. She was also charged with a felony stemming from an allegation that she intentionally damaged the camera system, but Rigual threw that charge out before a jury began deliberations.

In a taped interview following the crash, Walker explained her post-accident actions by saying she “[expletive] up.” She had been on administrative leave pending the outcome of her case but is now in the process of being formally removed from the force.

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