

**From:** [Schwartz, Melissa A](#)  
**To:** [Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny](#); [Interior Press](#); [Benemelis, Isabel M](#)  
**Subject:** Re: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ  
**Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 6:35:27 AM

---

Shannon will receive a briefing about this today. Until then, NPS should refrain on any further comment at all — even the previously approved statement. Thanks

---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:31:27 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A ; Interior Press ; Benemelis, Isabel M  
**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Just so you know this is not accurate.

The “Born to Run” icon, 71, had been riding his motorcycle on the peninsula on Nov. 14 when he “was spotted by fans who asked him to pull over and take some pictures,” according to a source close to Springsteen.

“Bruce stopped, took the pictures, then a fan offered him a shot of liquor, which he took, while sitting on his bike, which was stationary,” the source said.

“Park Police saw what happened and they immediately pulled Springsteen over as he drove away.”

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Assistant Director for Communications (A)  
Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:24 AM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny ; Interior Press ; Benemelis, Isabel M  
**Subject:** Re: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Another: <https://nypost.com/2021/02/11/bruce-springsteen-busted-after-one-shot-of-tequila/>

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:17:08 AM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

I recommend NPS create a timeline for how this was handled (the arrest and response), with information that does not undermine law enforcement actions. If there is any truth to this story, there will be significant interest:

<https://www.app.com/story/news/local/courts/2021/02/10/springsteen-blew-0-02-quarter-legal-limit-source-says/6712582002/>

---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:13:23 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Yes, of course- any deviation we'll send up for clearance.  
We'll get on the phone with the park pio team to reiterate.

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Assistant Director for Communications (A)  
Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:10 AM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Anything beyond the standard sentence should go back through OCO. I want to make sure any additional FOIA release is done by the book.

I had asked that the sentence about his cooperation be cut because it was unnecessary. I understood from your note that you were fine removing it, but it was definitely used. No change needed at this point but nothing beyond this statement is approved, including any disclosures, until we check in.

---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 8:05 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A; Interior Press; Benemelis, Isabel M

**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Thanks Melissa for chatting just now to provide the specific context.

As follow up- to clarify for this group that NPS will provide a list of media inquiries related to this matter but we do not need to send up each inquiry for OCO review.

I have not seen the park provide anything beyond our standard confirmation of charges when asked.

Note: I do anticipate that the FOIA materials (incident report and mug shot) will likely be processed and released in the next few days. I verified yesterday that the regional FOIA officer will not post materials that have not been reviewed by the SOL (which is standard practice when we redact information from a record).

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Assistant Director for Communications (A)  
Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 7:58 AM

**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

I would like visibility into every Springsteen related inquiry. Reminder that no other statements beyond this standard response should be given. Thanks

Melissa Schwartz  
Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Cell: [\(202\) 538-2214](tel:2025382214)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 5:06 PM

**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny; Interior Press; Benemelis, Isabel M

**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Good by me

---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 4:58 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Sounds good. I don't have a good reference point for the last sentence. It was modeled after several local LE jurisdictions (at least three) in how they often characterized arrests- i.e. noting the individual was compliant/cooperative. I feel no ownership and am happy to pull that sentence.

As I sent this up to you all, I went back to the LE program to verify accuracy of the initial statement. It did not represent the full scope of citations. Here is the updated that is fully accurate. Are we good to let them confirm at this point?

**Updated Proposed written response:** On November 14, 2020, Bruce Springsteen was arrested in Gateway National Recreation Area and received three citations; DWI [36 CFR 4.23 (a) (1)], reckless driving [36 CFR 4.2 (b)], and consuming alcohol in a closed area [36 CFR 2.35 (a) (3) (iii)]. Springsteen was cooperative throughout the process.

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Assistant Director for Communications (A)  
Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Thanks – I am not proposing changing from standard operating procedures, just wanted to understand. The second sentence does not appear to be in your SOP, why does NPS feel it's necessary to characterize the arrest?

---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 11:32 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

The Departmental Manual is not that specific, but see relevant highlighted sections below from the Dept's policy.

In terms of questions- initially, TMZ asked us to confirm an arrest that they believe took place in Oct or Nov and to confirm the charges. We just got a follow up from TMZ (it came to me while I was in

the process of writing this email), asking for a copy of the LE report (they will be directed to FOIA it). They provided a picture of the first page of the report. (linked here: [tmz\\_1.jpg \(3264x2448\) \(wb-eme-eme-prod-us-east-1-formstack.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#))

The other inquiries have been from local media. One asked where someone would go to court if they received a DUI at Sandy Hook.

Thanks,  
Jenny

1.4 **Policy.** The Department supports a culture of openness with the news media and the public that values the free exchange of ideas, data and information and that provides for the dissemination of accurate scientific, scholarly, technical and management information. The Department is committed to keeping its constituencies and the general public informed and welcomes public interest in its programs and activities through news media coverage and other forms of communication. This chapter is aimed at promoting broad public understanding of the Department's mission and the work of its bureaus and offices and establishes principles for excellence in public communications and provides procedures for facilitating the flow of information from the Department to the public. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Department to:

- A. Use the news media, web-based and social media products and other communications channels to report, explain, and interpret to the public the Department's policies, programs, and activities.
- B. Use clear, concise language, avoid jargon, limit to the extent practicable the use of technical terms and clearly and concisely explain any technical terms.
- C. Ensure that information provided to the news media and the public is accurate and delivered in a timely manner, and maximize disclosure consistent with requirements and intentions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). (See 383 DM 15 for FOIA policy and procedures.)
- D. Ensure cooperation and coordination among the Department's program and public affairs communities.
- E. Uphold high standards for all public affairs employees, including:
  - (1) Be honest and accurate in all communications;
  - (2) Act promptly to correct mistakes or erroneous information, both internally and externally;
  - (3) Promote the free flow of scientific, scholarly and technical information adhering to the following practices:

(a) Do not alter the substance of scientific, scholarly and technical information;

(b) Provide for review by subject matter experts prior to issuance of news releases;

(4) Honor embargoed dates for publications;

(5) Respond promptly to media requests and respect media deadlines;

(6) Appropriately protect information that is exempt from disclosure or where disclosure is restricted by statute, regulation, Executive Order, or other executive branch policies and directives;

(7) Internally promote policies and actions that support the Department's mission and provide prompt, accurate, and complete information to the public.

F. Ensure that employees may speak on behalf of the Department to the news media and the public about their official work and freely and openly discuss scientific, scholarly, technical information, and, approaches, findings, and conclusions based on their official work, consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

G. Encourage bureaus to use social media tools to communicate their missions and messages with the public when there is a legitimate business case to do so.

H. Encourage the publication of scientific, scholarly and technical information produced as a result of activities related to Departmental projects or programs.

I. Abide by the Departmental Manual chapter on "Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities" (305 DM 3), in dealing with matters that may concern scientific or scholarly integrity.

J. Establish a process to address and resolve internal disagreements that may arise from a decision to proceed or not proceed with the issuance of a news release or other type of official public communications.

K. Promote diversity in its publications and audiovisual productions.

L. Ensure cooperation to the extent practicable with non-governmental organizations, firms or groups requesting official communications in the form of written or graphic material, or speeches that require special preparation consistent with the procedures of section 1.6 (G) of this chapter.

M. Increase dissemination of information through suitable nongovernment media. (For procedures, see 476 DM.)

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles  
Assistant Director for Communications (A)  
Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

---

**From:** Schwartz, Melissa A <[melissa\\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov](mailto:melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>; Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

Is this standard practice outlined in the DM? What is the specific question?

---

**From:** Anzelmo-Sarles, Jenny <[Jenny\\_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov](mailto:Jenny_Anzelmo-Sarles@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 10:57 AM  
**To:** Interior Press <[interior\\_press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:interior_press@ios.doi.gov)>; Benemelis, Isabel M <[isabel\\_benemelis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:isabel_benemelis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** NPS high profile arrest- TMZ

**Reporter:** multiple

**Outlet:** multiple including TMZ

**Bureau/Office:** National Park Service/Gateway National Recreation Area

**Subject:** DUI arrest of prominent person

**Deadline:** ASAP

**Additional information/driver for request:** NPS arrested and charged Springsteen in November with DWI, which requires a mandatory court appearance. The arraignment is on 2/10 at 9 am. Over the weekend, the park started receiving multiple media inquiries, including from TMZ. It is standard practice and consistent with the NPS release of incident information policy to confirm name, age, and hometown along with violations. In this case, age and hometown are not necessary due to the individual's prominence.

*Note: We anticipate that we will be FOIA'd for requests of the LE report and possibly the body camera footage. We will process and release in accordance with law and policy.*

**Proposed written response:** On November 14, 2020 Bruce Springsteen was arrested in Gateway National Recreation Area for violation of 36 CFR 4.23(a)(1) Operating or being in actual physical control of vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or combination of both. Springsteen was cooperative throughout the process.

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles

Assistant Director for Communications (A)  
Chief of Public Affairs and Chief Spokesperson  
National Park Service  
Mobile: (202) 230-2088

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)