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## Police say man drove while drugged

### Driver allegedly had syringe in his hand

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**LEOMINSTER**— A 23-year-old city man was arrested Saturday, after a police officer allegedly found him either falling asleep or passed out in a car in traffic with a syringe in his hand, District Court records said.

Alex P. Archambault of 18 Eden Glen was arraigned yesterday on charges of driving under the influence of drugs; unsafe driving of a motor vehicle; resisting arrest; possession of heroin; and possession of a narcotic that possibly was Suboxone (a drug designed for the treatment of opiate dependence), records said.

Judge John J. Curran set cash bail at \$1,000. Mr. Archambault is scheduled to return to court on Dec. 21 for a pretrial hearing, records said.

Police Officer Jose O. Algarin Jr. described the incident that led to the arrest, which occurred about 3 p.m.

Officer Algarin was turning right from Main Street onto Merriam Avenue when he saw a gray 2003 Hyundai Elantra stopped in traffic near 54 Merriam Ave. Vehicles in front of the car had gone through a green light, while many vehicles were behind the stopped car.

When Officer Algarin noticed that the driver, Mr. Archambault, was either falling asleep or already passed out, he opened the driver's side door so the motorist didn't wake up and drive away, causing a crash.

The officer saw Mr. Archambault had a syringe in his hand and a sandwich-type bag between his legs that held a small plastic bottle with clear fluid and cotton swabs. The officer believed Mr. Archambault might have just injected himself with heroin.

Officer Algarin grabbed the hand with the syringe, ordering Mr. Archambault out of the car. Police Officer Randy P. Thomas got in through the passenger side, put the vehicle into park and removed the keys from the ignition.

Mr. Archambault began pulling away from Officer Algarin, who was able to pull him out of the car after several seconds with the help of Officer Thomas.

Mr. Archambault had shot up heroin earlier in the day, he said, and he was just deaning the syringe while driving.

"Mr. Archambault stated that he has a six (6) to ten (10) bag a day habit but has been trying to cut down," the report said.

Officer Algarin saw several bags in the car used to package heroin and a partially empty bottle of Flying Dog In-Heat Wheat Ale, an alcoholic beverage.

After Mr. Archambault was arrested, he told police he only uses one bag of heroin a day and is trying to get off slowly. He said several times that he's been using Suboxone instead of heroin.



Police later found two additional syringes, several bags in which there was heroin residue and a single tablet that was in a folded piece of paper. Mr. Archambault insisted the tablet was Vitamin E, but police Lt. Michael D. Goldman searched the Internet and found it might be Suboxone.

Mr. Archambault said he didn't have a prescription for Suboxone.

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