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Cheektowaga man accused of impersonating police

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CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. (WIVB) — Police say he bore the badge, but Corey Shepard was not one of their own.

Shepard, a Cheektowaga resident, has been accused of impersonating a Buffalo police officer.

Cheektowaga police say the 26-year-old called in a report about a reckless driver on Monday and showed up to the scene dressed as an officer. According to officials, Shepard looked the part; He had on a dark police uniform, duty gun belt, handgun and a ballistic vest that read “POLICE.”

After he got there, Cheektowaga police officer Jacob Wodowski had suspicions of Shepard, who

After he got there, Cheektowaga police officer Jacob Wodowski had suspicions of Shepard, who claimed to be an off-duty Buffalo cop.

When Shepard allegedly showed Wodowski a badge and ID card, the two parted ways.

After the fishy encounter, Cheektowaga police reviewed dash cam footage that allegedly showed Shepard pointing a gun at the driver that was stopped.

Through further investigation, the truth came to light — Shepard was not a cop, nor was he a security guard. He instead works for a local company installing and maintaining security systems.

With this discovery, Cheektowaga police went to Shepard's home to make an arrest. Inside of it, they say they found a substantial amount of police gear and drugs.

Here's what police say they saw:

- parking tickets stolen from the Buffalo Police Department
- a ballistic vest that read "POLICE" in bold letters
- a fake taser
- various police uniforms
- handcuffs
- pepper spray
- police baton
- handcuff key
- 7 fake police ID cards
- 6 fake police badges
- "POLICE" ball cap
- 5 hypodermic needles
- 14 vials of a steroid

Police charged Shepard with reckless endangerment, criminal impersonation, possession of a hypodermic instrument, criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal possession of stolen property and multiple counts of possession of a forged instrument.

Following arraignment, Shepard was released on $1,000 bail.

Anyone who thinks they might have been victimized by Shepard in the past is asked to call police. Cheektowaga police can be reached at 686-3544 during the day, or at 686-3508 after 4 p.m.

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