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Woman accused of making false rape claim at Oakland University

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(Courtesy Oakland County Sheriff's Office)

ROCHESTER HILLS -- A 21-year-old Detroit woman is accused of lying to police when she reported she was kidnapped and raped by two men in a van near Oakland University's campus. Oakland County Sheriff's deputies say Jessica Joe is charged with filing a false report, a potential four-year felony. She was arraigned Tuesday in 52-3 District Court before Magistrate Marie Soma. Joe was released on a \$10,000 personal bond. According to deputies, Joe had claimed it was about 7:30 a.m. when she grabbed by two men in the parking lot of the CVS Pharmacy near the corner of Adams Road and Walton Boulevard. Joe lives on campus and reported that the men dragged into the van after leaving the pharmacy. She accused the two men of pulling off her clothes. Joe reported she was raped by one of the men while the other dove around the area for a period of time. Deputies say Joe told investigators she was pushed out of the vehicle in a parking lot. Investigators were suspicious of the claims because Joe had no visible signs of bruising or marks, deputies said. CVS Pharmacy employees also stated no one matching Joe's description had come into the store and she was never seen entering or leaving the business in footage from security cameras, deputies said. Joe later admitted to lying to investigators to get the attention and support of a boyfriend, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office said. The report of the rape resulted in Oakland University police issuing a warning to students. A full reimbursement of about \$3,000 is being sought by Rochester Hills for the cost of the investigation if Joe is convicted. Deputies said the false report resulted in about 45 additional hours of patrol deputies and

detectives, some of which were working on overtime. “When someone falsely claims a kidnapping and sexual assault it makes it that much harder on real assault victims and wastes precious police resources. It also strikes fear in the community based on a lie,” Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said. “This is very sad.” *Contact staff writer Shaun Byron at (248) 745-4685 or shaun.byron@oakpress.com. You can also follow him on Facebook and @ShaunByron on Twitter.*

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