



Lake Delton Police Department

Daniel D. Hardman – Chief

Incident Type: Attempted Child Abduction - Update

Location: Deer Run Subdivision, Lake Delton

Date of Incident: May 11, 2019

The Lake Delton Police Department has concluded a 3 ½ month investigation into the attempted abduction of a toddler. Shortly after 3AM on Saturday, May 11, 2019, Officers from the Lake Delton Police Department were dispatched to a possible prowler outside of a home in the Deer Run subdivision of Lake Delton. Upon Officers arrival, they learned that the occupants of the home had been awakened by a noise disturbance in a two-year old child's bedroom. The parents discovered the child alone, outside the home at the base of the window, and called for police.

Evidence located at the scene suggested that a person had entered the home through the child's bedroom window and likely brought the child outside the window and then fled the area. The child suffered minor injuries and was reunited with the parents prior to Officers arrival. Uniformed Officers quickly and efficiently secured and preserved the scene in and around the home which subsequently allowed investigators to process and preserve substantial physical evidence.

In a joint effort with the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation, Lake Delton Police launched a large scale neighborhood canvas in an effort to develop leads. James Sellers, age 22, a resident of the Deer Run subdivision, emerged as a suspect from that effort. Police searched Sellers home with a warrant and secured physical evidence.

Physical evidence collected at the scene and subsequently at the home of Mr. Sellers was examined by the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in Madison. As alleged in the complaint, that evidence tied Mr. Sellers to the crime. On August 29, 2019, Police took Mr. Sellers into custody, without incident, for one count of Abduction of a Child, one count of Burglary, and one count of Recklessly Causing Physical Harm to a Child.

As in any criminal proceeding, Sellers is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Lake Delton Police would like to thank the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation and the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory for their assistance with this investigation. Chief Daniel Hardman said, "One of my top priorities as Chief is to promote that our staff conduct thorough and effective investigations. This crime was especially important to me to be solved to restore a sense of security and provide some closure for the victim and the community. I am proud of the tenacity and effort demonstrated by all the people involved in this investigation."

Any further questions can be directed to Chief Daniel Hardman at the Lake Delton Police Department