

SUMMARY:

On March 21, 2022 at approximately 2:28 p.m., officers were dispatched to Gundersen System Walking Trail, located at 1836 South Avenue, for a battery call for service. The victim, Victim 1, was battered while walking on the trails. After further investigation, Joseph Grzegorek II (DOB 12/13/1996) was placed under arrest for various charges. Joseph was transported to the La Crosse County Jail, where he was turned over to jail staff.

INITIAL CALL:

On March 21, 2022 at 2:28 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Gundersen Systems Walking Trail, located at 1836 South Avenue, for a battery call for service. Dispatch advised a female was screaming and getting chased by a male. The female was currently in a safe location and the male left in the opposite direction, wearing a red shirt, black shoes, and had brown hair. Dispatch also advised the male appeared to be around 5'8" in height. Prior to me making contact with the victim, Victim 1, Officer Erdmann searched the area and was able to locate an individual matching the description given in the area of South Avenue and 13th Place.

INTERVIEW OF VICTIM 1:

I made contact with Victim 1, who was extremely emotional, shaking, and appeared to be distraught from what had happened. Victim 1 advised she was walking on the Gundersen Health System trails. Victim 1 advised she had passed an individual wearing a red shirt, a backpack, jeans, and black shoes. Victim 1 did not think of anything as she passed the male individual, however, moments later, she had heard what appeared to be "footsteps running in her direction".

Victim 1 turned around and observed the same male individual wearing a red shirt, jeans, glasses, and a backpack, running towards her direction. Victim 1 immediately began to run, however, was unable to outrun the individual. That male individual, without saying anything, placed his arms from behind around Victim 1's chest, with the other hand attempting to cover her mouth. Victim 1, at that point, began to scream, "Help," and was yelling, "Let me go." Victim 1 was unable to describe exactly how the next series of events took place, however, the male individual was able to "pull" Victim 1 to the ground. Victim 1 advised the male individual then began to "drag" her, using both arms, pulling her towards the river, preventing her from escaping. Victim 1 continued to scream, "Help," and "Let me go." Victim 1 began to "kick", attempting to disengage and free herself from the male individual. Eventually, the male individual, later identified as Joseph Grzegorek II, let go and Victim 1 stood up, yelling, "Help." Once disengaged from the male, Victim 1 began to run towards Gundersen Health Systems from the trails, however, the male continued to "follow her". I asked Victim 1 if the male individual had said anything to her as he made contact with her. Victim 1 advised he had "mumbled", "I just want...", but was unable to recall any other statements made by the male individual.

Victim 1 advised that she continued to yell for help and two individuals ran to her, later identified as Shane S. and Emily R. At that point, the male individual turned around and began to walk in the opposite direction. Victim 1 did take a photo of the male individual on her cellphone. The photo was from the waist down. The male was wearing a red shirt, jeans, and black tennis shoes.

I asked Victim 1 if she was fearful for her safety, in which she responded, "Yes." Victim 1, again, was very emotional and distraught however advised the incident lasted a totally of

approx. 1-2 minutes. I asked Victim 1 if she wished to pursue charges in this incident, in which she responded, "I feel like he needs to go to jail." Victim 1 was unable to provide a pain level, due to her adrenaline. However, she advised as the male individual approached her, securing her body from behind, he had cut the inside of her upper lip. Victim 1 showed me her upper lip and a photo was taken using Squad 27's camera.

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION:

Victim 1 described the male suspect as a white male "approx. her height" with brown hair, wearing red shirt and jeans with glasses. Victim 1 has never seen the male prior to this incident taking place.

FOLLOW UP:

Sergeant Flatten transported Shane S. and Emily R. to the location where Officer Erdmann had contact with Joseph Grzegorek (DOB 12/13/1996). Shane confirmed 100% identity of Joseph being the suspect involved.

ARREST:

I informed Officer Erdmann of the charges of disorderly conduct, battery, and false imprisonment, preventing Victim 1 from being able to disengage from the incident. Officer Erdmann placed Joseph under arrest and transported him to the La Crosse County Jail.

Officer Erdmann stated:**INITIAL CALL:**

On 03/21/2022 at approximately 2:28 p.m., officers were sent to 1836 South Avenue (Gundersen Clinic walking trail) for what initially came out as a domestic and it was later changed to a battery. Dispatch advised a female was on the walking trail behind Gundersen Health System and was screaming and being chased by a male. She told the complainant that he beat her tried to cover her mouth while dragging her towards the water. The suspect was described as a white male with dark hair, wearing jeans, a red T-shirt, black shoes and an unknown color backpack. The complainant believed he was last seen heading towards Bennora Lee Court.

CONTACT WITH JOSEPH GRZEGOREK:

While en route to the call, I was traveling westbound on South Avenue. I heard Dispatch put out over the radio a description of the male and I tried to coordinate other responding officers to arrive on 7th Street and search the area while I would come in from the east. While continuing westbound on South Avenue, I observed a male wearing a red shirt, blue jeans, black shoes, and wearing a gray backpack walking eastbound along south side of South Avenue crossing 13th Place S. I noticed the this male was also wearing glasses. I immediately turned around at 13th Street S. and as I was approaching, I asked Dispatch if the victim knew if the suspect was wearing glasses or not. The victim confirmed the suspect was wearing glasses. At this time, I turned down Townsend Street and made contact with the male at the corner of Townsend and South Avenue.

Upon making contact with the suspect, I asked him to identify himself to which he withdrew an Indiana learner's permit from his wallet. The photo ID identified him as Joseph Anthony Grzegorek (M/W, DOB: 12/13/1996). When I initially made contact with him, I could tell that he

was somewhat sweaty and appeared a little bit out of breath. I asked where he was coming from and he advised he had just left his house at the Gund Brewery Lofts and stopped by Kwik Trip to get a water and a Mountain Dew and was now walking to work at Dairy Queen. I observed he was carrying a bottle of Nature's touch water.

I asked Joseph what happened on the walking trails behind Gundersen. He told me he was not on the walking trails at Gundersen. I asked him again what happened between him and the female on the walking trails behind Gundersen. He again denied being on the walking trails and didn't know what I was talking about. It should be noted while I was speaking with him, I could tell his right hand was starting to quiver a bit with what I believed to be a nervous reaction to my line of questioning. I told Joseph there were several people on the walking trail who described him and again asked what he was doing down there. He then admitted he was on the trail behind the apartments but not by the water. I then asked him what he was doing on the trail. He told me he was standing by the tree line looking at the trees. He said he likes to do that sometimes before he goes to work. He said he didn't see anyone down there and didn't know why anyone would call and describe him.

I again explained that something happened on the trail because someone called and described him having an issue with a female. I explained this was his opportunity to tell me what happened from his perspective. Joseph then told me he didn't know who called and he wasn't trying to do anything down there, but when he turned to run back towards the other trail that goes up the hill, he "may have bumped into a female, and it may have looked like I was doing something to her." He said he was "trying to get off of her" because they "got tangled up a little bit because she turned around as I bumped into her." I asked if he grabbed hold of her or dragged her or hit her at all. He denied doing any of these things. He said when they got tangled up, it might have looked like he was dragging her because they were both trying to go in opposite directions. I asked how far away she was when he first saw her. He said she was about 5-10 feet away and she was walking away from him. He said he didn't try to run into her, he was trying to run around her when they collided. He denied touching her in an inappropriate way. I asked if they fell to the ground. He said she did, but he was able to stay on his feet.

He then said he started to panic and left the area, because she started screaming and running towards somebody. When I asked him about why he was panicking and he said again said he didn't touch her, he didn't try to touch her. He again said he was just trying to run up the hill when they got "tangled up a little bit." When he backed himself off of her and she got up and said, "I didn't see anything, I won't say anything." He then said she started walking back towards the trail and thought he was walking towards her aggressively and she took off running and screaming. This is when he panicked because she was running and screaming and there were other people in the area.

I tried to clarify his statement and he again said she told him she see anything and she wouldn't say anything as long as he didn't mess with her. He said he gave her a head nod and began walking in the opposite direction. She then started walking in the same direction and the next thing he knows, she running away and screaming. I asked if there was anyone else that would have seen what happened. He said there was no one else down there at the time. He said there were two people that were walking up the trail that didn't see what happened but she went running towards them probably to tell them what she thought happened. I then asked Joseph what she thought happened. He said, "In her eyes, it probably looked like I was trying to attack her. Which I wasn't." I asked if he said anything to her when he bumped into her. He

said he didn't. I asked if she said anything. He said she started screaming a bit. He said he took that as she thought he was trying to attack her, but again said he wasn't doing that.

ARREST:

While I was speaking with Joseph, Sgt Flatten drove by and confirmed, Joseph was the suspect and advised we could take him into custody. Once I was finished speaking with Joseph, I advised he was going to be arrested. He was placed into handcuffs which were checked for fit and safety locked. He was searched incident to lawful arrest and no contraband was located on his person. He was then placed in the rear passenger compartment of my squad car where he complained about the handcuff being too tight. I checked the fit and confirmed that they were fit properly however I did loosen them slightly per his request. At this time, Joseph was transported to La Crosse County Jail without incident where he was turned over to jail staff.

VIDEO:

Because Joseph said he had gone to Kwik Trip, Officer Weber responded to Kwik Trip on South Avenue to confirm Joseph did enter the Kwik Trip. Officer Weber noted that Joseph entered the Kwik Trip at 2:31 p.m. and exited at 2:33 p.m. She was given a black and white still photo of Joseph entering the store which she gave to me. This photo is attached to this report.

EVIDENCE:

Sergeant Flatten advised that I should take custody of all the clothing Joseph was wearing and his backpack as evidence. Once at the jail, his pants, shirt, and shoes he was wearing were taken as evidence as well as the backpack he was carrying and the black shoes in the backpack. All other property was turned over to jail staff.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 03/23/22

Electronically Signed By:

Megan Gomez

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1113196

Electronically Signed By:

Deputy Daren Schieldt

Complainant