

Assaulted

continued from page 9a

the case, reviewing security footage, executing search warrants for messages, and interviewing parents, bystanders near the park, and Adam and the 20-year-old woman.

For at least two of those conversations, the parents were joined by community members who the parents described as advocates. When Mork came to one of the parents' houses, one advocate tagged along, according to police reports. When the advocate interjected, Mork asked her to leave, but the parent insisted she stay. "At one point another unknown female walked up and encouraged the group to conclude that law enforcement 'doesn't care' ..." Mork wrote. Mork reported that these three parties repeatedly interrupted and "made illogical conclusions ... claiming that law enforcement 'didn't care.'" He said the mother started crying, left, and then refused to take his calls.

Chloe Walsh works with some of the boys at an after-school program and was one of the advocates who spoke with Mork about the case. She said he told her it was a "drug deal gone wrong" and she got the impression he believed the kids had made up the story. "That was what he was trying to get me to believe happened," she stated.

One mom said Mork told her, "'We're working this as a drug deal gone wrong.' That's what he said to my face." She continued, "I don't think they were taking the boys' attack seriously." She added, This boy had to get stitches. What more proof do you need? ... What reason do these kids have to make this up?"

Another mom said she got the same line from investigators: This incident was "a drug deal gone bad." She asked, "So you're

telling me this guy is selling drugs to kids and that's OK? And he can assault them?"

A third mom said she later went to an October 1 Coffee with a Cop event to demand action.

Mork said he was trying to follow the facts and investigate the assault complaint. "This was a very serious case, so we needed to know a lot," he said. "We needed to check boxes. We needed to understand from the park all the way to 8:26 p.m." Mork continued, "There were all these gaps we were trying to fill in, and we weren't able to." Parents who were initially willing to talk with him, even eager for updates, stopped returning his calls, he said. "I go there to talk to the moms and something changed," he said, suggesting the third-party advocates were part of that. "... I suspect I know what it is in terms of outside interference, if you will." He continued, "There are people in the public that believe they know our job, and a lot of times that is just inaccurate ... I think that was part of an issue here: people telling me I have to do certain things, and it just wasn't true."

Why didn't WPD recommend charges?

"Ultimately, what it boils down to is a lack of probable cause to support any charges," Williams said. "... There are significant conflicting stories between everyone involved. Video footage does not corroborate the victims' initial statements as far as what took place."

Williams continued, "You can try and make an argument that obviously some things that were illegal took place. Proving them is another aspect." Williams said he felt it's reasonable to believe that the boys and Adam knew each other and arranged to meet at the park. "What happened from that point forward gets to be a little bit gray," he said. He noted the video doesn't show

Adam getting out of the car, or even a dome light coming on from an open door.

Mork said that parts of the audio from the church — "You just attacked us" and "I almost dropped your *** ass" — suggest there might have been an assault that happened earlier, not at the church. "That was kind of one of those pieces that I want to follow up with the kids. Did something happen at the park?" he said.

"We can't even corroborate that it was an assault," Williams said. "We've got [Sean] saying, 'I got hit in the head with a gun.' And we've got the other guy going, 'I never got out of the car.' ... If somebody looked at that video, they [would] be like, 'Yeah, I don't believe there was an altercation indicating that this guy got out and smacked somebody in the head with a gun.' OK, so then you start asking, what's truth, what's fiction. What's not being told here?"

The WPD encounters other assault cases where the only witnesses are the victim and the accused. However, Williams told the Post, "We have to have probable cause. We can't just throw people in jail on a say-so. Even on domestics, you kind of alluded to the fact that people are arrested all the time on conflicting stories. Well, there's more to it. It's not just the story. It's physical parts. It's bumps, bruises, broken furniture, neighbors, 911 calls where you can hear screaming going on."

In this case, "You have to look at the totality of the circumstances," Williams said. "How can you corroborate their statements? ... We have a video that has almost 90% of the scene. You can basically look at that area and say, if this type of assault took place, you would at least see the guy getting out [of his car on the video]." The video evidence doesn't support the boys' claims, and police weren't able to interview other boys who were present at the park, he said. "What's not being told here?" he asked. "... There are times when people don't

want to tell us something, whether it's criminal or embarrassing," Mork said. "And unfortunately in a case like this, if that was the case, if there was something that they didn't want to tell us, for whatever reason, we still have to know." Williams stated, "If they say, 'Yeah, we were trying to buy weed from the guy, and, you know, yeah we grabbed the money, but, my God, he came out with a gun.' We can get over it." That wouldn't stop the police from investigating the assault, he said.

Asked whether there is clear evidence to charge the man with selling cannabis to minors, Williams said that, given the Snapchat messages are the only evidence and officers did not recover cartridges from Adam's car, "I don't know if you can prove this in a court of law."

Since the incident, the families have been reeling and the parents said they feel betrayed, appalled, and angered by the WPD's work on this case. One mom said that the kids have been traumatized and missed school following the incident, with Sean missing a full week. "Ma, can I stay here? I don't feel safe," she said her son asked her. The four boys are Black, and the grandmother of one of them told the Post, "If it was four white boys assaulted, y'all would be all over it." Another mom said, "These kids shouldn't have to be scared."

For now, the case remains inactive. "I'm open to talking to all the kids still," Mork said. "... If there was a gun, I want to prove that. However, if we do find that there wasn't a gun, we'll keep going, as well. My role in this was to prove it or disprove it, and I don't feel I was able to do either."

Asked if they would consider talking to investigators again, one mother said, "[The boys] don't want to talk to them again because they didn't take it seriously the first time around."

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First Publication Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS WINONA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SESSION HELD October 28, 2025 6:00 PM WINONA COUNTY BOARD ROOM
These published proceedings are incomplete in that they simply summarize the actions of the Winona County Board. A complete copy of the proceedings is on file in the Office of the Winona County Administrator and online at the Winona County Website (www.co.winona.mn.us) and may be examined by the public.

The Winona County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners Room on the above date with Commissioner Dwayne Voegeli; Commissioner Josh Elsing; Commissioner Marcia Ward; Commissioner Greg Olson; Commissioner Chris Meyer; County Administrator Maureen Holte; County Attorney Karin Sonneman; Human Resources Director Todd Sadler; Planning and Environmental Services Director Ross Dunsmoor; Water Resource Planner Sheila Harnes; Criminal Justice Social Worker Katie Schild; Jail Intake Worker Trish Chandler; County Recorder Bob Bambenek; Auditor Treasurer Chelsi Wilbright; Executive Assistant Heidi Hund; Chairperson Ward

the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Public comments were heard from Chasity Serocki, 1254 W. 3rd, regarding Committee of the Board items. Approved the County Board minutes dated October 14, 2025. Approved the Closed Session minutes dated October 14, 2025. Acknowledged the Parks and Environment Advisory Committee minutes dated August 5, 2025. Approved the amended agenda by moving Consent Business items 7.3, 7.6, 7.1, and 7.7 to General Business items 8.0, 8.01, 8.02 and 8.03, respectively. Approved the following Consent Business: Approved Resolution to Cancel State Warrant Checks. Awarded Bid for CSAH 26 Bridge Replacements to ICON Constructors, LLC. Approved Resolution for Local Road Improvement Program Projects. Approved Minnesota Paid Leave Policy 7.22. Approved Updated Americans with Disabilities Act Policy 1.11. Approved Authorization of Contracts for Septic System Upgrades using Watershed-Based Implementation Funds. Approved Renewal of Gun Range Agreement with Winona Police Department. Approved Resolution for Donations Received 7/1/2025-9/30/2025.

Confirmed Payment of regarding potential Disbursements. contribution to the Winona

10/08/2025 - 10/21/2025		
Fund		
1	Revenue	\$ 195,515.61
2	Recycling & Solid Waste Fund	\$ 117,360.55
3	Road and Bridge	\$ 44,407.48
4	Transportation Sales Tax	\$ 97,014.89
5	Health & Human Services	\$ 425,271.09
7	Road and Bridge State Aid	\$ 27,118.51
27	CLFRF (Coronavirus) #21.027	\$ 36.00
33	2020A Bond	\$ 404,732.50
34	2021A Bond	\$ 426,265.00
35	2022A Bond	\$ 315,318.75
42	Capital Improve & Equip Fund	\$ 38,690.12
73	Collaborative	\$ 1,177.48
76	Employee Benefit	\$ 7,248.10
83	State Revenue Fund	\$ 110,890.32
Total		\$ 2,211,046.40

Tabled Renewal of County Homeless Shelter Purchase of Service to the November 12, 2025 Board meeting. Added a discussion regarding a potential jail update to the November 12, 2025 County Board meeting. Approved Agreement with Kavira. Approved Contract with Justice Management Institute. Approved Non-Union Wage Grid Amendment 2025-2027. Received Presentation on Re-Entry Assistance Program Plus by Program Manager, Gwen Herbert. Received Update from County Recorder, Bob Bambenek. Declined Apple Blossom Park Outdoor Recreation Grant. Appointed 2026 AMC Delegates. Added a discussion

First Publication Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Winona City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Third Floor of City Hall, 207 Lafayette Street, Winona, Minnesota, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025, to consider Findings, Conclusions, and Order, pursuant to Winona City Code, sections 32.02 and 43.01.17, for the abatement of nuisances located at 1171 W. Mark Street, Winona, MN 55987. At the time and place designated above, an opportunity will be given to all persons affected wishing to speak for or against the matter. November 19, 2025. Amy VanGuilder Deputy City Clerk

First Publication Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
CITY OF WINONA BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The following applications have been made for variations from the requirements of the Winona City Code, as listed below: a) Ashley & Angela Gorka - City Code Section 43.03.72 Lj3) which limits the number of guests in a short-term rental to 1 guest per 1,500 square feet of lot area. Applicant wishes to establish a short-term rental for 4 guests on a 3,185 square foot lot. An Interim Use Permit (IUP) has already been approved for the overall short-term rental use, but a variance is needed to

STREET
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Winona, Minnesota, will meet in the Council Chambers on the Third Floor of City Hall, 207 Lafayette Street, Winona, Minnesota, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025, to consider Findings, Conclusions, and Order, pursuant to Winona City Code, sections 32.02 and 43.01.17, for the abatement of nuisances located at 1171 W. Mark Street, Winona, MN 55987. At the time and place designated above, an opportunity will be given to all persons affected wishing to speak for or against the matter. November 19, 2025. Amy VanGuilder Deputy City Clerk

rent to more than 2 people. Property is described at R-3 zoning, Sect-23, Twp-107, Range-007, Lairds Addition, Lot-011, Block-008, WLY 22.75', or located at 420 East Third Street. Notice is sent to the applicants and to the owners of the property affected by the application. A hearing on these petitions will be given in the Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, Winona, Minnesota at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at which time interested persons may appear either in person, in writing, or by agent, and present any reasons which they may have to the granting or denying of these petitions. Comments will be accepted prior to the public hearing in person or by dropping off at City Hall, 2nd Floor, Community Development, or mailing to 207 Lafayette Street, by Noon Wednesday, November 26, 2025. Any questions regarding the petitioner's request can be directed to the Community Development Department; Inspections Division at (507) 457-8231.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO PREPARE THEIR CASE IN DETAIL AND PRESENT ALL EVIDENCE RELATING TO THIS PETITION AT THE TIME OF THE SCHEDULED HEARING. Chris Sanchez, Chairman Board of Adjustment

First Publication Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Winona Area Public

Schools Winona, Minnesota CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #861 Due: December 12, 2025 - 4:00 PM Central Time
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by Winona Area Public Schools, Winona County, Winona, Minnesota, until 4:00 PM central time, Friday, December 12, 2025, for LEGAL SERVICES according to specifications included in the Request For Proposals document available at the district office, 903 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, Minnesota, at which time the proposals will be reviewed, and tabulated for review by staff members who will make recommendations to the School Board for their consideration at a later meeting. Specifications may be obtained from Brad Berzinski, Superintendent, Winona Area Public Schools, 903 Gilmore Avenue, Winona, MN 55987 or by emailing brad.berzinski@winona.k12.mn.us. Proposals are to be submitted electronically in PDF format to: brad.berzinski@winona.k12.mn.us Subject line: "RFP - Legal Services Proposal" Due December 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in proposals.

		Division of School Finance 400 NE Stinson Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55413		District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026					ED-00110-47	
General Information: Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.										
District Name:		Winona Area Public Schools			District Number:			01-0861		
Fund	FY 2025 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2025 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2025 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2025 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2026 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2026 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2026 Projected Fund Balances			
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 2,891,202	\$ 7,879,536	\$ 8,159,160	\$ 2,611,578	\$ 8,717,929	\$ 10,035,049	\$ 1,294,458			
General Fund/Other	\$ 1,742,176	\$ 37,071,187	\$ 35,869,760	\$ 2,943,603	\$ 35,044,196	\$ 34,640,210	\$ 3,347,589			
School Nutrition Fund	\$ 830,340	\$ 2,150,090	\$ 2,159,938	\$ 820,492	\$ 1,977,248	\$ 2,082,769	\$ 714,971			
Community Service Fund	\$ 958,511	\$ 2,630,802	\$ 2,587,137	\$ 1,002,176	\$ 2,546,493	\$ 2,602,739	\$ 945,930			
Building Construction Fund	\$ 8,940,055	\$ 166,866	\$ 8,610,273	\$ 496,648	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 496,648			
Debt Service Fund	\$ 648,597	\$ 3,253,814	\$ 3,257,554	\$ 644,857	\$ 3,499,458	\$ 3,435,948	\$ 708,367			
Agency Fund	\$ -	\$ 136,861	\$ 136,861	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	\$ -			
Internal Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
* OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ 1,942,358	\$ 239,517	\$ 390,141	\$ 1,791,734	\$ 175,000	\$ 473,500	\$ 1,493,234			
* OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ 139,150	\$ 663,532	\$ 658,925	\$ 143,757	\$ 660,400	\$ 656,825	\$ 147,332			
Total - All Funds	\$ 18,092,339	\$ 54,192,205	\$ 61,829,749	\$ 10,454,845	\$ 52,770,724	\$ 54,077,040	\$ 9,148,529			
Long-Term Debt				Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81						
Outstanding July 1, 2024	\$ 26,570,102	Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2025				NONE				
Plus: New Issues	\$ -									
Less: Redeemed Issues	\$ 3,076,266									
Outstanding June 30, 2025	\$ 23,493,836	Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2025								
Short-Term Debt				Total Operating Expenditures			\$ 46,787,923.00			
Certificates of Indebtedness	NONE	FY 2025 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM				2,382.54				
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	NONE	FY 2025 Operating Cost per ADM				\$ 19,637.83				
The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.										

NOTES: The 2026 Construction Fund was based on an estimate of most expenditures related to the GeoThermal Project falling in fiscal year 2025. Because less of the actual expenditures fell in fiscal year 2025, the 2026 budget will be adjusted to reflect this in January. There will not actually be a \$496,648 remaining in this fund at the end of 2026 as this MDE report makes it appear. 2026 budget figures reflect the preliminary 2025 budget approved by the school board on June 5, 2025. General Fund restricted amounts include student activity accounts as they are under board control and reserved for student activities. Total Operating Expenditures listed above include the district's General, School Nutrition, and Community Education funds less capital-like expenditures per the direction of MDE. Links to this and other district financial information as well as the district's report card can be found on the district's website: www.winonaschools.org.

Please remember to keep your mailbox and newspaper tubes clear of tall weeds and other obstructions for the safety of the delivery person and to ensure timely delivery. Your driver may not deliver your paper if there's a car, shrub, snowdrift, or recycle bin in front of it. Thank you.

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