



# Cornell Police Dept

Incident #: 22CO00774

Reporting Officer: Glenn Rehberg - COPD

Report Time: 09/22/2022 08:56:21

## Incident

Incident Nature  
Animal - Nuisance

Occurred To  
09/22/2022 08:56:16

Contact  
210

Disposition Date  
09/27/2022

Cleared Date

Address  
708 BRIDGE ST; CORNELL MIDDLE AND  
HIGH SCHOOL; 1  
CORNELL, Wisconsin 54732

Received By  
Eric Walters

Disposition  
Closed Case

Cleared  
N

Clearance  
Report Taken

Occurred From  
09/22/2022 08:56:16

How Received  
Officer Report

Miscellaneous Entry

Judicial Status

Cargo Theft Related

## CORNELL HIGH SCHOOL

Address  
708 BRIDGE ST  
CORNELL WI 54732  
Sex

Phone  
(715)861-6947  
Race

## Complainant

DOB

Responding Officer(s)  
Glenn Rehberg - COPD

## Offenses

### All other offenses

Completed?	Method Of Entry	Gambling Motivated?
Premises Entered?	Location Type	Cargo Theft Related?
Statute CO10.03(7)-1	Description Dog/Animal Violations 1st	Category

## Persons

**ELLIOTT, DAVID R**  
Employee

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**WITKUS, MARY A**  
Citation Issued

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**SIME, NELSON D**  
Witness

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**CORNELL HIGH SCHOOL**  
Complainant

Address 708 BRIDGE ST CORNELL Wisconsin 54732	Phone (715)861-6947	DOB
Race	Sex	Ethnicity
Height	Weight 0	

**Vehicles**

**2017 Kia SED**

[REDACTED]	State Wisconsin
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Value \$0.00	Amount Recovered \$0.00

**Involved**

Color  
Silver/Aluminum

License Type  
Regular Passenger Automobile

## Narratives

### Original Narrative

09/22/2022 11:18:00

On 9/22/22 I was at the Cornell High School when Principal David Elliott informed me he'd been told that a white pitbull with black spots had gotten out of a van and chased a kid, barking, yesterday during student release. Elliott was unsure whether the dog had bitten the student. He said that "Pat" [Nelson] Sime had witnessed the event, along with other students in the area. Elliott provided a license plate, [REDACTED], from which the dog had come out.

I ran that plate, which listed to [REDACTED] on a silver Kia passenger van. Elliott informed me that Mary Witkus was the driver of that van, with children enrolled in Cornell schools.

#### WITNESS CONTACT:

I contacted Sime shortly after 9am to learn what he could tell me. Sime said that yesterday at student release time he had been parked behind a white or silver passenger van on the east side of the high school next to the shop area. A girl opened the left door of the van at which time a white pit bull with black spots got out of the van and started chasing a boy, growling and barking. Sime didn't know whether the boy was bitten, and the boy ran out of sight. Soon thereafter the boy ran back past the right side of Sime's truck, and the girl who had released the dog ran to the back of Sime's truck and caught the dog there. Sime said the driver of the van was female, but he didn't get a good look at her. Sime said there were many other kids in the area and the dog was barking angrily, not playfully.

I recorded Sime's statement on a Voluntary Statement form. Sime reviewed it, agreed it was accurate, and signed it.

#### MARY WITKUS CONTACT:

At 10:44am I telephoned Witkus and asked what happened with the dog at school yesterday. Witkus said the dog "wanted to get out and play" and briefly characterized it as a happy event, with no mention of barking or chasing. When I asked if the dog had barked or chased someone, Witkus admitted, "Yeah, because he [student] was being mean." I asked how the boy being chased was being mean, and Witkus said the boy "kept yelling at her and screaming at her" and kept "running away." Witkus said her dog didn't growl, and it doesn't growl. She later clarified that it actually does growl at times, when bothered or threatened. Witkus placed blame for the incident on the boy, who "came too close to the car." She also blamed the school for not teaching kids not to run away from dogs, which could cause the dog to chase them. She said that if a person yells and runs, her dog was "going to chase you down."

We spoke further, and Witkus explained that the dog got out of the car because Witkus' kids were fighting in the car, and the dog [Mavis] doesn't like fighting. Witkus said that Mavis is actually her daughter's dog and is licensed in Eau Claire County, but is staying with Witkus because her daughter doesn't have a place for her. Witkus said Mavis is half pitbull and half an unsure other breed, but said Mavis looks like a pit. Witkus said Mavis is vaccinated for rabies. She also said Mavis isn't used to a lot of people, as they live in the county, and doesn't like excitement. She said Mavis "couldn't deal" with the excitement of the kids arguing in her van.

I asked Witkus if she understood people's concern when a dog that looks like a pitbull charges a person, barking, and chases that person around, and how that concern is heightened when they don't know the dog and might not know much about dogs. Witkus admitted that this could cause concern.

I informed Witkus I would be issuing a citation for Dog At Large. She said she understood what Mavis did was wrong, but wished that kids were taught better. I ended the call at 10:54am.

#### FOLLOW-UP:

I prepared and mailed a citation for Dog At Large, violating Cornell ordinance 10.03(7), 1st offense.

Case closed.

Chief Rehberg