



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

525 Park Street, Suite 250 St. Paul, MN 55103-2145
Phone: 651-291-1119 Website: www.mppoa.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RELEASE: Maple Grove police officer dragged 40 yards by repeat felon, yet Hennepin Co. Attorney's Office declines to charge as assault on police officer

(St. Paul, Minn.) During a traffic stop, a Maple Grove police officer was purposefully dragged 40 yards in a car driven by a repeat felon with a lengthy criminal history, and yet the Hennepin County Attorney's Office declined to charge the suspect with assault.

On November 13, 2023, Maple Grove Police Officer Brandon Gross and his police officer partner executed a traffic stop that ended with the suspect, Daniel Rudolph of St. Louis Park, pinning the officer's arm between the suspect's body and the driver's seat, causing Officer Gross to be dragged for approximately 40 yards. The suspect said, "I got you! I got you!" and then a few second later he accelerated the vehicle and tried shutting the door on the officer while he was dragging him. During the dragging, the suspect extinguished his headlights, along with other factors that indicate he knew Officer Gross was being dragged. Rudolph has formerly been convicted of armed robbery and other felony-level crimes. [The complaint can be found here.](#)

Minnesota Police and Peace Officer General Counsel Imran Ali (and former Washington County Prosecutor) said, **"A repeat felon used his vehicle as a weapon and dragged a police officer 40 yards. The Hennepin County Attorney Office (HCAO) declined to charge this as an assault, even though the evidence and probable cause exists."**

"This charging decision represents an alarming trend from the HCAO where violent offenders are not charged, or under charged, with crimes. Minnesota law has long recognized vehicles being treated as weapons in these types of situations. It is alarming how police officers are treated differently than citizens in the eyes of the HCAO."

Officer Gross sustained an injury to his shoulder that kept him out of work for over two weeks. He is medically cleared to return to work but has lingering pain and swollen/inflamed ligaments in his shoulder from being dragged.

The Hennepin County Attorney assigned to the case declined 2nd Degree Assault charges and instead charged the suspect with Fleeing and felony Obstruction. Maple Grove Police Chief Eric Werner asked for a review and the Senior Attorney declined as well.

Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association Executive Director Brian Peters said, **"Public safety officials put their lives on the line to protect their fellow citizens and enforce laws. Those that would seek to harm them should face penalties, but the HCAO is again prioritizing criminals over law enforcement."**

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The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association is the largest organization representing police and peace officers in Minnesota.

CONTACT: Leslie Rosedahl, Media@MPPOA.com, 651.353.1818



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