



FORT DODGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 22, 2019

Case: 19-0804 – Simple Assault/Disorderly Conduct, Mineral City Mill and Grill, 2621 5th Ave. S.

At approximately 12:30 this afternoon, the Webster County Communications Center received a call regarding an assault at the Mineral City Mill and Grill restaurant located at 2621 5th Ave South, in Fort Dodge. Information provided at that time indicated that the incident had ended and all parties involved were still present. Officers with the Fort Dodge Police Department responded.

When officers arrived on scene, they discovered the intended victim, United States Representative Steve King, was having a group lunch when an unknown male approached their table. The male approached Mr. King, inquired as to his identity, and ultimately threw a glass of water on Mr. King. Others having lunch with Mr. King were also struck. Based on witness information, it is believed Mr. King was specifically targeted due to his position as a United States Representative.

The offender in this case was identified as 26-year-old Blake Gibbins of Lafayette, CO. Charges were pressed against Mr. Gibbins who was then arrested without incident and transported to the Webster County Jail on the following charges;

- Simple Assault - Simple Misdemeanor (two counts)
- Disorderly Conduct - Simple Misdemeanor

As with all cases, Mr. Gibbins is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Any booking photo requests of Mr. Gibbins can be directed to the Webster County Jail at 515-573-1462 or wccjail@webstercountyia.org. Neither Mr. King nor the second victim, Burlyn Pecoy of Fort Dodge, were injured in this incident.

Public Information Officer: Captain Ryan Gruenberg - rgruenberg@fortdodgeiowa.org

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Fort Dodge Police Department.
Crime Stoppers can also be contacted anonymously by calling (515) 573-1444 (STOP), online at www.wccrimestoppers.com or by texting "LEC" and the tip to CRIMES (274637).