



LA CROSSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

333 Vine Street, Room 1500 • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
Business Office (608)785-9629 • www.lacrossesheriff.com

Jeffrey A Wolf, Sheriff • Michael R. Horstman, Chief Deputy

Incident Report 00-22-00318

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

ASSIST OTHER AGENCY:

The sparta Police Department requested that the La Crosse Sheriff's Office complete the suspect interview in a hit and run in their jurisdiction due to a conflict of interest. The suspect was interviewed and a citation was issued.

Incident Location:
, ,**Report Date:**
01/05/2022 12:28:29**Start Date:**
12/30/2021 23:15:00**End Date:**
12/30/2021 23:00:00

OFFICER

Officer:
SIEGEL, JOHN 1351**Involvement:**
REPORTING**Date:****Officer:**
SIEGEL, JOHN 1351**Involvement:**
APPROVING**Date:**

OFFENSE(S)

1

Count:**Offense:****Modifiers/Enhancers:**

PERSON(S) INVOLVED

1

Involvement Type:
SUSPECT**Name:**
CRONINGER, KEVIN D**Date of Birth:**
12/03/1983**Gender:**
MALE**Race:**
WHITE**Home Address:**
310 NORTH COURT STREET, SPARTA, WI 54656**Phone(s):**
,**Occupation/School:**
MONROE COUNTY

ORGANIZATION(S) / BUSINESS(ES)

NARRATIVE



LA CROSSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Officer:
SIEGEL, JOHN 1351

Report Date / Time:
01/06/2022 13:30:51

Report Details (if applicable):



LA CROSSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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INCIDENT REPORT

INITIAL INFORMATION:

Assistant Chief Booker Ferguson contacted the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office reference a Hit & Run crash that occurred on December 30, 2021 in the City of Sparta. Their preliminary investigation determined the responsible party was Kevin Croninger, the district attorney for Monroe County. Croninger had called the Sparta Police Department the morning of December 31, 2021 and admitted to striking the vehicle. To avoid any conflict of interest Ferguson asked the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office to interview Croninger and issue the appropriate citation or charges.

CONTACT W/ KEVIN CRONINGER:

On January 5, 2022 I met with Croninger at the Sparta Police Department. Upon arriving Croninger told me he was embarrassed about what happened, understood he should have stopped and made contact with the owners, and understood there would be consequences for his decision. I asked him to give me a detailed account of what happened that evening. During his account, I asked clarifying questions to help establish a timeline as to what happened. The following is a synopsis of the information he provided.

Between 10:00 and 10:30 p.m. on December 30, 2021 Croninger was on his way home after being out with friends. He had been drinking but did not feel like he was impaired. When he got in his truck the windshield was already frosted so he allowed it to warm up so he could see through the center portion; however, the sides were still obstructed. As he turned the corner on Jefferson St. he struck a vehicle that was parked with the right corner of his truck. He did not see the vehicle and he was in the turn as he struck it and continued driving.

At that point Croninger said he should have stopped and called in the accident. He had no excuse as to why he did not. He drove home which was a very short distance away and backed his vehicle into the garage. He got out, looked at the front of the truck, and did not see any damage other than a mark on the chrome part of the bumper. He went inside and went to bed.

Croninger got up between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. on December 31, 2021 to get ready to go out of town for the weekend and would be kenneling his dog in Black River Falls. He went out and took a closer look at the truck from the front. There did not appear to be damage but when he looked at the passenger side, the bumper was pushed in toward the wheel and all of the plastic was cracked and broken. There were photographs taken of the front and sides of the truck by me after the interview.

After seeing the damage, Croninger took his dog for a walk and passed the vehicle that he struck. Since he lives very close to that intersection it is not unusual for him to walk the dog on those streets; however, he did purposely walk that direction. He then saw the significant amount of damage to the vehicle he struck. He knew at that point he would have to contact the Sparta Police Department and he was even more embarrassed he had not done it early. He knew he had not made the right decision. He went home and packed to get ready for the weekend and while scrolling through his phone sometime after 8:00 a.m. saw a Facebook post from the victim stating their vehicle had been hit and they were looking for whoever did it.

Croninger called Officer Joel Ames from the Sparta Police Department and stated he struck the vehicle the night before. Ames completed a report reference that phone call. I clarified with Croninger that he did not believe he told Ames he struck the vehicle at 5:00 or 5:30 a.m. but that he had seen that vehicle at approximately that time.

DISPOSITION:

On January 11, 2022 I issued Kevin Croninger a Wisconsin Uniform Traffic Citation for Hit & Run Unattended Vehicle which is the appropriate statute and charge in this case. He was warned on Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Driving with Obstructed Windshield.

The photographs taken of Croninger's truck were uploaded to ICF for the La Crosse County Sheriff's Office. Copies will also be provided to the Sparta Police Department. The photographs do indicate that from straight-on there does not appear to be damage to the vehicle; however, when going to the passenger side, the significant bumper and wheel well damage is readily visible.

No further information at this time.

Captain John Siegel #1351

kp