

EXCLUSIVE: Guy Caught Driving Rape Victim's Stolen Van Not Prosecuted By Waukesha County DA
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

An elderly Waukesha woman raped earlier this year by a man who entered her downtown Waukesha shop tells me she feels like she is being victimized all over again, this time by the Waukesha County District Attorney's office.

While the woman has shared her story on social media using her own name, I am not identifying her. Her van was stolen from outside her shop earlier this month. The vehicle was recovered by Waukesha Police several days later. The man caught driving the vehicle is a 23-year old Waukesha man who is currently facing separate felony charges in Outagamie County for felony burglary and retail theft. The man told authorities he "borrowed" the car because he needed to drive to Appleton for a hearing on his felony case.

The assistant district attorney who reviewed the case, Chelsea Thompson, apparently bought this story. The victim tells me ADA Thompson told her she could not prove the man stole the van. The victim tells me she feels as though she is being violated again. She is furious.

I contacted Thompson's boss, Waukesha County District Attorney Sue Opper, who is defending the decision to bring no charges. Opper said she can't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the guy driving the vehicle stole it. When I asked why he couldn't be charged with being in possession of stolen property, Opper said there was no way of proving the man knew it was stolen.

It gets better. I asked Opper why the person who supposedly lent the vehicle to the man driving it has not been charged. Opper said they have not identified him. I asked Opper if the man driving the vehicle didn't name the guy who he claims to have "borrowed" it from. Opper said he provided a name and a description but authorities can't attach it to anyone. Opper said many people like this lack stability in their lives and don't know other people's names and so forth.

I think the only lack of stability here is the gullibility of Sue Opper's office.

The victim was sexually assaulted in February in a highly publicized case (which was discussed at the time on my program). A man entered her store and after making small talk proceeded to rape and beat her. The man charged in that case, Kendrew Wilson Jr., is currently incarcerated and is being held on bail. His case has not come to trial and he is currently pursuing an insanity defense. News reports at the time described severe physical trauma received by the rape victim who tried unsuccessfully to fight the rapist off.

She was raped in her store. Ten months later her van was parked outside her store and was stolen. The guy found driving it three days later will face no charges from DA Opper's office. The victim is furious. She tells me she certainly hopes the rapist's case isn't being handled by Chelsea Thompson, the assistant district attorney who won't charge the guy who was found driving her car.

As for the guy that supposedly loaned the car to that man, he is nowhere to be found and can't be identified. If he exists at all.

Opper is not running for reelection. The only two candidates vying to replace her both work as assistant Waukesha County district attorneys. Neither of them, Lesli Boese or Michael Thurston, responded to my inquiries about whether they approve of their office's handling of this case. Thurston offered general comments about this type of crime but wouldn't address the specific case. The ADA who won't charge the man driving the van, Thompson, has also not responded and I got an automated email reply that she will be out of the office until the middle of next week.

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