

# Oelwein Police Department

## Voluntary Statement

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Statement of: Last, First: Heller, Charity S.

Address: 413 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE City: Oelwein State: IA

DOB: 01/27/1993 SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: 319-238-1828

Statement taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

On Friday December 20, 2019 at approximately 11:00pm, my dog was attacked by my neighbors' dog. When the incident occurred, I had just brought my female Belgian Malinois, Nike, outside to go to the bathroom and play ball.

Nike and I walked out of my garage, onto the cement patio in my backyard. Nike walked out into the grass, as I stood at the edge of the patio. Nike all of a sudden nonchalantly walked back into the garage and stood at the door to go inside. I found this unusual because she prefers to be outside. I called her to come back outside and she didn't move.

All of a sudden, I heard a jingling noise and saw my neighbor's, Sean Armstrong's, dog running through my backyard. I yelled at it to "get out of here," but it ran right past me and into my garage. I turned around and saw Armstrong's dog, a black Pitbull mix, bite and latch onto my dog's back. Nike did not even fight back, she just kept waiting to be let into the house. I ran in and yanked up on the dog's metal collar as hard as I could and at this point the dog released Nike. I yelled for my wife to come open the door but she didn't hear me. I was able to hold the dog back by its collar with my left hand and opened the door to the house with my right. After Nike ran inside, I released the dog's collar for a moment before attempting to regrip the collar to drag the dog out of my garage. As I reached out for the collar, the dog turned and snapped at me, just missing my hand by inches.

The dog sniffed for a few seconds and then ran out. I could hear Armstrong running into my yard while yelling for his dog. I slammed the garage door shut as soon as the dog exited. When back inside, I explained to my wife what just took place. She stated she didn't even hear me yell for her because she had been in the bathroom with our 2-year-old daughter.

When I found Nike, she was in her dog bed in our room, shaking uncontrollably. I found a puncture wound on her back that was bleeding profusely. I disinfected the area, applied pressure until the bleeding subsided and applied a pain reliever.

I was a little unsure about reporting it to the police department, but chose to because there was already one incident during the summer of 2019 that occurred with this same dog. The reason I did not report the incident from the summer was because we had been in the neighbor's fenced in area when it happened.

Armstrong had struck up a conversation with me, while I was outside with my daughter and my dog. I told Armstrong we were getting ready to go fishing and he offered to give us a fishing pole and tackle box of lures to use. My daughter, Nike and I walked over into his fenced in area to retrieve the fishing gear. The screen door on Armstrong's house apparently wasn't locked and his black Pitbull mix came out and began attacking my dog. I could not intervene as I was trying to stand in front of my daughter to protect her. Armstrong tried to break it up but my dog ran out of the fenced in area and his dog followed. Armstrong ran after them and I started screaming for my wife who was in our garage. As soon as it was "safe," I picked up my daughter and headed towards our house to ensure everything was okay.

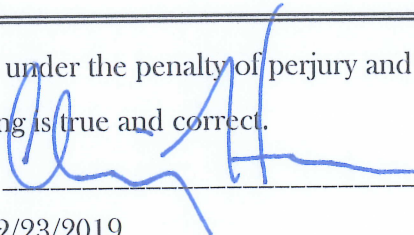
Armstrong's dog had followed my dog into our backyard and did not stop until Armstrong dove and tackled his dog. Armstrong had to lay on his dog to hold him down while we got Nike inside. Nike suffered similar puncture wounds during this incident.

My biggest fear is that his dog will attack my daughter, or someone else's child as we live directly by the pool and a block down from the Wings Park playground. Many people walk their dog's and families by our area during the nicer months, and I feel that this dog is a huge safety risk to the public.

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I certify under the penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/23/2019

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_