



Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729.1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 01/22/23 to 01/28/23, the Hermantown PD had 163 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Chief

Jim Crace

Commanders

Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants

Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective

Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers

Jason Salo
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Brandon Solem

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Jessica Sorensen
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

Driving Under the Influence

On 01/22/23 at 1 a.m., while assisting another officer with a traffic stop, Officer Stracek observed a Chevy Silverado that appeared to be traveling over the posted speed limit. The speed was locked by radar at 19 mph over. Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop and made contact with the 24-year-old female driver. She confirmed she knew the speed limit and apologized when Officer Stracek told her how fast she was going. The woman said she was headed home, but Officer Stracek noted that her home was the opposite direction of where she was heading. Officer Stracek detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle and noted that the woman was slurring her words. The woman agreed to perform field sobriety testing. Before starting, she stated that she had heels on, but Officer Stracek noted that they appeared to be work boots similar to his own. The woman's preliminary breath test resulted in a reading of .165% blood alcohol content. The woman was ultimately cited for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.

Drugs

On 01/23/23 at 12:43 a.m., Officer Stracek observed a vehicle traveling 51 mph in a 40 mph zone. As the vehicle passed him, he noted that it was displaying a gold 2022 tab on the license plate. He performed a traffic stop and made contact with the 23-year-old driver, who stated he thought the speed limit was 45 and estimated his speed to be 50 mph. When asked about the odor of fresh marijuana, the man handed over suspected marijuana in a baggie. He was cited for no proof of insurance and possession of marijuana.

Order Violations

On 01/23/23, just before 10 p.m., Officer Stracek observed a Ford Expedition leaving the Walmart lot without a front license plate. He noted that the 20-year-old registered owner had a driver's license status of ID only and that the driver appeared to be the registered owner. Officer Stracek initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the occupants, noting that there was a young child in the backseat with only a seatbelt on. The driver admitted to knowing she doesn't have a valid driver's license. Officer Stracek identified the 19-year-old male passenger and discovered that the pair had active Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders on each other. He noted that they were both arrested on 01/18/23 for violating the orders. The man said he tried to get the order dropped and explained that the woman is pregnant with his child. He was taken into custody at lodged at the St. Louis County Jail for the order violation. Due to the woman having her young child with her, she was allowed to call for a ride to pick her and child up. She was issued a citation for the order violation, no MN driver's license, and no car seat for the child.

On the morning of 01/24/23, Officer Gottschald was advised of an order violation at the Iron Workers Union building. The reporting party advised that a man had called and demanded to speak to her supervisor but would not initially provide his name. When he did identify himself, she told him that he could not speak to the man. The caller then asked for the supervisor's personal phone



Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729.1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

AROUND TOWN

Chief

Jim Crace

Commanders

Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants

Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective

Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers

Jason Salo
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Brandon Solem

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Jessica Sorensen
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

number, which was not given to him. The reporting party then called the St. Paul office to advise them that the man said he would be calling there. The suspect did call the St. Paul office and requested to be put on the "out of work list." The business manager at this location advised the suspect that was not possible and the man acknowledge that he knew about the order that was in place. The reporting party confirmed that the phone number the suspect called from was the phone number they had on file for him. Officer Gottschald determined that the order is in effect until October 2023. In addition, she discovered that the 23-year-old suspect has a domestic violence related conviction that would enhance the order violation to a gross misdemeanor. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office.

Theft

On the evening of 01/22/23, Officers Stracek and Prouse were dispatched to a burglary in progress at a construction site in the 5100 block of Miller Trunk Highway. The reporting party advised that a van was at the address and he observed a male on surveillance camera. Officers arrived three minutes after the initial 911 call, but the suspect and van were no longer there. The suspect's footprints in the snow show him going around the mobile office style trailer and up a snowbank to see inside the windows. Officer Stracek located a pry bar mark on the man door of the trailer.

On 01/26/23, just after 11 a.m., Officers Salo and Leibel were dispatched to a shoplifting incident at Walmart in which 18 items valued at \$260.30 were taken. Upon arriving at the store, Officer Salo observed the suspect's vehicle leaving the lot. He followed the vehicle and performed a traffic stop nearby. The 35-year-old woman initially denied stealing. Officer Leibel discovered that the woman had also been involved in an unreported theft on 01/24/23. In both incidents, the woman selected items and placed them into her cart, scanning them with a scan and go app. When using the app, you have to go to a checkout lane to pay for the items, which the woman failed to do. The woman was advised that there was video of both thefts and that officers were aware that she had been involved in a similar theft at the Superior Walmart on 01/25/23. The suspect then admitted to all three thefts, stating she was short on money. She said she doesn't normally steal, but heard other people talk about it and decided she would try. When asked how her money was linked to the scan and go app, she said it was through her checking account card, but that the card only had \$5.00 on it. The woman was cited for theft, driving after revocation and no proof of insurance for the incident occurring on 01/26/23. For the 01/24/23 incident, she was cited for theft. In that instance, six items valued at \$150.54 were taken.