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## NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

1615 Riverview Drive  
Northfield, MN 55057  
Ph: (507) 645-4477 | Fax: (507) 663-9323

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Northfield Police Department

**Contact:** Chief Jeff Schroepfer 507-645-9301

### Investigation Leads to Charges Against Former Teacher and Former Police Officer

The Northfield Police Department is sharing important information regarding an ongoing investigation involving former members of our school and law enforcement communities.

In December 2024, school staff alerted our department to concerns about inappropriate communications between a teacher and a student. Our investigators acted quickly, working in close partnership with Northfield Public Schools to look into the matter.

During the course of this investigation, we also received information about a former School Resource Officer, Gabriel Crombie, who, in the spring of 2024, may have been aware of inappropriate behavior and did not report it. Because of the seriousness of this new information—and to ensure a fair and thorough process—we asked the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to assist.

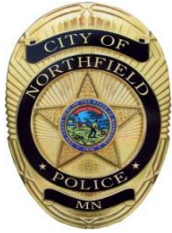
The BCA's expertise was crucial in reviewing what happened and in determining whether proper steps were taken. Their findings, along with those of our department, were reviewed by the Steele and Waseca County Attorney's Offices, which have now filed charges.

The following individuals have been charged under Minnesota State Statute:

- **Katie Hanson** – two felony counts of sending sexually explicit electronic communications to a minor. Hanson was charged by the Steele County Attorney's Office.
- **Gabriel Crombie** – Aiding an Offender to Avoid Arrest (a felony), and Misconduct – Public Officer (a gross misdemeanor). Mr. Crombie served as a School Resource Officer for the Northfield Police Department but **left the department in August 2024, prior to the start of this investigation and any department knowledge of the complaint.** Crombie was charged by the Waseca County Attorney's Office.

We understand how upsetting this news is for our community, particularly for families and students. We share your concern and are committed to complete transparency and accountability.

"This situation does not reflect who we are as a police department," said Northfield Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer. "We expect every officer to act with integrity and to protect our students without exception. We will continue working hard to earn and keep the trust of our community."



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"This is a deeply troubling incident that affects not only the victims and their families but also the entire community. The safety and well-being of our students and children is of utmost importance, and we are committed to holding those who violate that trust accountable."

We're grateful to the staff of Northfield Public Schools for reporting concerns promptly and working closely with us throughout this investigation.

For questions related to the charges on Crombie, refer to the Waseca County Attorney's Office media release or public criminal complaint, filed in Rice County.

For questions related to the charges on Hanson, refer to the Steele County Attorney's Office media release or public criminal complaint, filed in Rice County.

If you or someone you know has additional information related to this case, please contact the Northfield Police Department at **507-645-4477**.

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