



# BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

June 16, 2023

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## BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

### Two Men Charged After Fight at George F. Johnson Elementary School

(TOWN OF UNION, NY) Two men are facing charges after a fight broke out at an elementary school following a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade spring concert.

On June 13, 2023 around 6:51 pm, Broome County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to George F. Johnson Elementary School in the Town of Union for a physical dispute near the main entrance. Responding deputies were alerted to the dispute by the School Resource Office (SRO) who broke up the physical confrontation prior to police arrival.

Two adult males, Stephen J. Donnelly, 44 years old of Vestal, NY and Lance J. Scott, 42 years old of Kirkwood, NY, engaged in a verbal altercation that turned physical in front of the main entrance to the school as a concert was concluding.

An initial investigation found that Scott had allegedly overheard Donnelly yelling at his own mother outside the entrance to the school and confronted him. Both began yelling at one another, with Donnelly attempting to provoke Scott into hitting him and backing him down the sidewalk. Donnelly then attempted to knock Scott's hat off and a physical altercation ensued, resulting in both parties on the ground punching each other. The school SRO and bystanders then intervened and separated the parties.

Further investigation and review of school surveillance footage revealed that prior to the altercation with Scott, Donnelly had followed another woman into the parking lot yelling obscenities and derogatory remarks at her while threatening to "bury her."

Based on evidence from school surveillance cameras, witness statements, and cell phone video, Donnelly was determined to be the primary aggressor in both instances. He was charged with Harassment for both the physical altercation with Scott and for following another female victim into the school parking lot while calling her derogatory names, obscene language and threatening her. Both Donnelly and Scott were charged with Disorderly Conduct for fighting in public and Donnelly received an additional Disorderly Conduct for his foul language in a public place.

General Information:  
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Garnishees:  
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All the parties involved (Donnelly, Scott and the two women) are well known to each other and minor injuries were sustained during the altercation.

The investigation is still on going and additional charges are anticipated.

Below is a complete list of charges at the time of this release:

Stephen J. Donnelly was charged with the following Penal Law Violations:

- Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree (physical contact)
- Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree (following public place to harass/annoy/alarm)
- Disorderly Conduct (engaging in fighting-public place)
- Disorderly Conduct (abusive/obscene language)

Lance J. Scott was charged with Disorderly Conduct (engaging in fighting-public place), a Penal Law Violation.

Both Donnelly and Scott were issued appearance tickets for the Town of Union Court to answer for their charges at a later date.

Additional information will be released upon conclusion of the investigation.

“Our local schools must represent a safe place for our children and families to gather and we must protect them,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “Fighting of any kind on school grounds, especially between parents, will not be tolerated.”

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