

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF BECKER

DISTRICT COURT  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
CASE TYPE: Other Civil

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<p>Alpha News,  Plaintiff,  v.  City of Detroit Lakes;  Detroit Lakes Police Department;  Glori French, in her official capacity as responsible authority for the City of Detroit Lakes,  Defendants.</p>	<p>Court File No. _____</p> <p><b>COMPLAINT</b></p> <p><b>EXPEDITED RELIEF SOUGHT</b></p>
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Plaintiff Alpha News, by and through undersigned counsel, files this Complaint seeking this Court’s authorization of the disclosure of portable recording system data related to the criminal case *State of Minnesota v. Nicole Lynn Mitchell*, Court File Number 03-CR-24-654, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.82, subdivision 7. The Defendants, the City of Detroit Lakes, the Detroit Lakes Police Department, and Glori French, in her official capacity as responsible authority for the City of Detroit Lakes (collectively, “Defendants”), maintain the data. Plaintiff states and alleges as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This is an action seeking authorization from the Court for the production of data by Defendants under the MGDPA, Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7.

2. “[T]o the press alone, checkered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression.” James Madison, Report on the Virginia Resolutions to the House of Representatives (Jan. 20, 1800), *in* Words of the Founding Fathers 101 (Steve Coffman ed. 2012). Still today, democracy dies in darkness.

3. Alpha News brings this Complaint to shine a light on an important question for Minnesotans: what happened on April 22, 2024 when Minnesota State Senator Nicole L. Mitchell was arrested on suspicion of First Degree Burglary?

4. Here is what Minnesotans *do* know. Early in the morning on April 22, officers from the Detroit Lakes Police Department responded to a 911 call on a report that someone broke into a residence. Senator Mitchell was found in the basement of the residence and told officers “I know I did something bad.” Mitchell was subsequently charged with felony First Degree Burglary. A true and correct copy of the criminal complaint is attached as **Exhibit A**.

5. The next day, Senator Mitchell appeared to tell a different story. Using her preeminent position, she made a public statement which appears to contradict the government’s charging documents.

6. Throughout this week, through her attorney, Mitchell has stated that the government’s complaint “lacks the complete information of the incident” and announced that she does not intend to resign.

7. The result is widespread public debate and immense scrutiny of both Senator Mitchell and the Detroit Lakes Police Department. Minnesotans want to know if their

elected representatives are trustworthy, law-abiding citizens, or rightfully charged with felony burglary.

8. All Alpha News wants to do is help Minnesotans decide who is telling the truth. This can easily be accomplished through the release of body camera and any other related video footage from Senator Mitchell's arrest on April 22.

9. Alpha News submitted a request under the MGDPA for body-worn camera video related to Senator Mitchell to the Becker County Sheriff's Office and Detroit Lakes Police Department on April 23, 2024.

10. These requests were denied because body-camera footage is private, Minn. Stat. § 13.825, subd. 2(3), and active criminal investigation data is confidential, *id.* § 13.82, subd. 7.

11. In a unique situation like this one, the public benefit from disclosure outweighs the privacy interests justifying these default rules. Minnesota's Senators are called to "adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct." Minnesota Senate Rule 56.1.

12. Fortunately, Minnesota lawmakers predicted that sometimes public disclosure of active investigation data may be warranted by the public interest.

13. Thus, under Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subdivision 7, "any person may bring an action . . . to authorize disclosure of investigative data."

14. Alpha News thus brings this action to authorize the production of all Detroit Lakes Police body-worn camera video footage from April 22, 2024 related to the arrest of Nicole Lynn Mitchell on Granger Road and Court File No. 03-CR-24-654.

## **PARTIES**

15. Plaintiff Alpha News is a Minnesota non-profit corporation. As a non-profit, Alpha News shares the same organizational structure as other Minnesota news organizations such as Minnesota Public Radio and MinnPost. It provides coverage of news and politics at [alphanewsmn.org](http://alphanewsmn.org) and through its app. It has extensively covered local Minnesota and national politics since 2015 and is one of the most widely read news media outlets in Minnesota.

16. Defendant City of Detroit Lakes is located at 1025 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.

17. Defendant Detroit Lakes Police Department (“DLPD”) is located at 807 Summit Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. DLPD is a law enforcement agency and a department of the City of Detroit Lakes.

18. Defendant Glori French, in her official capacity, is the responsible authority for the City of Detroit Lakes, and, in her capacity as such, resides at 1025 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. This action proceeds against French only in her official capacity because she is the responsible authority for Detroit Lakes and, upon information and belief, the Detroit Lakes Police Department as a department of the city.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7, and Minn. Stat. § 484.01.

20. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants, who reside in Minnesota.

21. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7, and Minn. Stat. § 13.08, subd. 3.

### **STATEMENT OF THE CLAIM**

#### **The Burglary and Senator Mitchell's Arrest**

22. At approximately 4:45AM on April 22, 2024, Detroit Lakes police dispatch received a call from an adult female victim that “somebody has broken into my house” and “just ran down into my basement.” The victim reported that the intruder had been “on the floor next to my bed.” While waiting for police to arrive, the victim grabbed “a little steak knife” for self-defense. A true and correct copy of the dispatch transcript, as obtained by news outlets, is attached as **Exhibit B**. See Lou Raguse, *911 transcript details allegation of Minnesota state senator 'breaking into' stepmother's Detroit Lakes home*, Kare11 (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/911-transcript-sen-nicole-mitchell/89-1982dcda-2e47-4106-bbdb-97e115f71145>.

23. Detroit Lakes Police officers were dispatched to the residence in Detroit Lakes. Upon arriving, police heard movement coming from the basement. After searching the basement, police located a female dressed in all black clothing and a black hat. That female was identified as Nicole Lynn Mitchell, a Minnesota State Senator representing the Woodbury area.

24. Senator Mitchell was ordered on the ground and placed under arrest. While being detained, Mitchell stated to the victim something to the effect of “I was just trying to get a couple of my dad’s things because you wouldn’t talk to me anymore.”

25. One officer discovered a flashlight near Senator Mitchell that was covered with a black sock so as to control the amount of light emitting from the flashlight.

26. In searching for Senator Mitchell’s point of entry into the house, officers observed a window on the wall of the basement with a small black backpack stuck in it. Officers searched the backpack and found two laptops, a cell phone, Senator Mitchell’s Minnesota driver’s license, Senator Mitchell’s Senate identification, and miscellaneous Tupperware.

27. Senator Mitchell said both laptops were hers and that she had “just gotten into the house” and commented “clearly I’m not good at this.”

28. Senator Mitchell was then read her *Miranda* warning. After hearing it, she stated “I know I did something bad.” Senator Mitchell further explained that her father had recently passed away and her stepmother (the victim) had stopped contact with her and refused to provide various items that belonged to her late father. These items included pictures, a flannel shirt, and ashes.

29. Senator Mitchell admitted to driving her vehicle to Detroit Lakes from Woodbury and that she left Woodbury at about 1:00AM.

30. Senator Mitchell also admitted to entering the house through the window where her backpack was discovered. Below is a picture of the window through which Senator Mitchell allegedly entered the home.



Available at <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/charges-state-sen-nicole-mitchell-broke-into-stepmoms-home-wanted-to-retrieve-her-dads-things/>.

31. At the jail, Senator Mitchell was questioned about the laptops found in her backpack. An officer provided Senator Mitchell with one of the laptops which Senator Mitchell then opened. The laptop was not password protected and the victim's name popped up on the screen. Senator Mitchell stated that the laptop had been given to her "way back when."

32. An officer spoke to the victim. The victim stated that she did not give a laptop to Senator Mitchell.

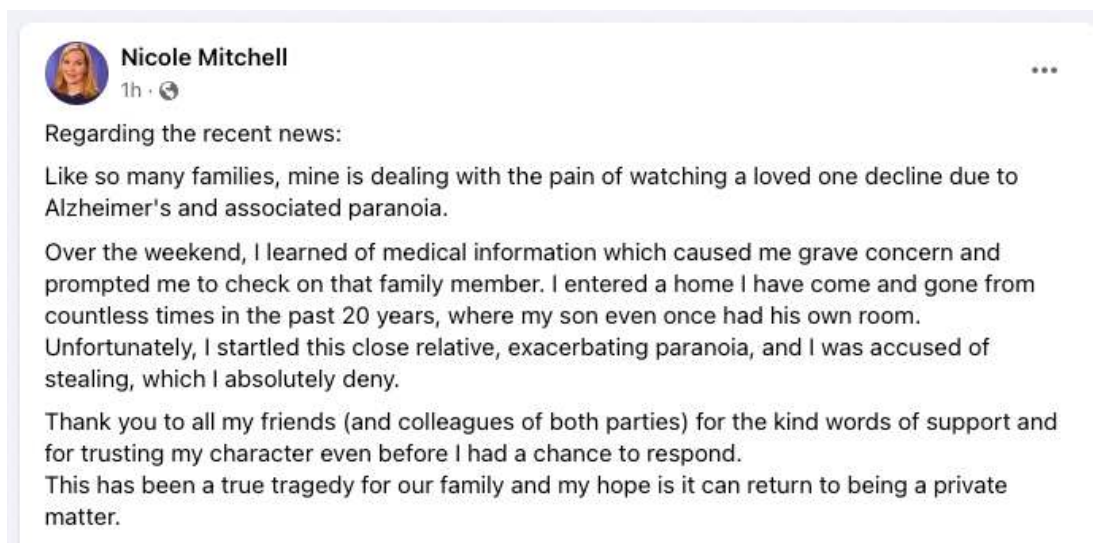
33. These facts are laid out more fully in the criminal complaint. *See* Exhibit A.

## Senator Mitchell's Release and Subsequent Statements

34. Senator Mitchell was charged and released on April 23, 2024 following an 11:00AM hearing. The conditions of her release included travel restrictions and adherence to a restraining order filed by the victim and granted by the court.

35. After her release, Senator Mitchell made several statements that are irreconcilable with the criminal complaint.

36. These statements first included a Facebook post which stated the following:



Available at <https://www.facebook.com/NicoleMitchellMN/>.

37. That same day, Senator Mitchell's attorney, Bruce Ringstrom, told a Star Tribune reporter that Mitchell was trying to make a welfare check on her stepmother, whose "cognitive abilities are steadily declining" and that Senator Mitchell's family members are aware that the victim has been "demonstrating extraordinary paranoia and blocking people out." *Ryan Faircloth*, "X" (formerly known as "Twitter"), <https://twitter.com/RyanFaircloth/status/1782891195494027545>



38. Senator Mitchell’s attorney then added a new layer of confusion by stating that Senator Mitchell “wanted to basically make a check *and* retrieve a couple of items that she felt were being wrongfully withheld from her despite earlier promises.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

39. Senator Mitchell’s attorney also acknowledged that Senator Mitchell’s decision to dress in all black and carry a flashlight with a sock over “would suggest that it was her plan to go in and out without disturbing anyone.” He believed “she was trying to protect herself from being noticed.”

40. The elements of First-Degree Burglary in Minnesota, as relevant here, are (1) entering a building with (2) intent to commit a crime if (3) the building is a dwelling and another person is present. Minn. Stat. § 609.582, subd. 1. Notably both theft—the intentional taking of a possession “without the other’s consent”—and trespass are crimes in Minnesota. *See* Minn. Stat. § 609.52, subd. 2; *id.* § 609.505 subd. 1(b).

41. That same day, Senator Mitchell’s attorney added a new critical fact. He told an ABC news station that Senator Mitchell “actually had a key to this house because of her long-term relationship, but the relationship has essentially deteriorated because I believe, the cognitive decline of her stepmother.” Krystal Frasier, *State Sen. Nicole Mitchell responds after being charged with burglarizing stepmom’s home* (Apr. 23, 2024), <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/charges-state-sen-nicole-mitchell-broke-into-stepmoms-home-wanted-to-retrieve-her-dads-things/>.

42. Importantly, Senator Mitchell’s attorney added that potentially unlawful entry into the victim’s house to *obtain property* was *necessary*: “If someone is paranoid and

they barricade the door, they don't allow visitors, so that you can't even check on their welfare, that sort of necessitates an alternative means of entry to check on things and to recover those items that she feels are appropriate and were promised and are hers.”

*Id.*

43. Senator Mitchell's attorney did not say whether Senator Mitchell had considered or sought civil legal action to obtain property wrongfully in another person's possession.

44. The next day, April 24, Senator Mitchell's attorney sent an additional statement to Ryan Faircloth of the Star Tribune. In that statement, Senator Mitchell's attorney stated that she is “motivated to get back to work and to assist in the preparation of her defense.” The attorney also complained that the criminal complaint “fails to include exculpatory facts, such as how Senator Mitchell has a key to the residence in question; that she was only in possession of things that she actually owns; and that she was and is deeply concerned about the health and welfare of someone who has been a member of her family for 45 years.” Ryan Faircloth, “X”, <https://twitter.com/RyanFaircloth/status/1783170847617757304>.

45. On April 25, 2024, Senator Mitchell made another public statement through her attorney to Torey Van Oot of Axios:

Here is Senator Mitchell's statement, as well as our statement as her counsel.

"While I cannot elaborate more at the advice of counsel, I can say I am extremely disappointed that the complaint lacks the complete information of the incident including important context, including that I have known the other person involved in this incident since I was four and care deeply about her. It saddens me that some people are attempting to use a tragic family situation to score political points, and I am grateful to those who believe, as I always have, that everyone should be allowed the due process guaranteed in our Constitution. I am confident that a much different picture will emerge when all of the facts are known. I am as committed to my constituents today as the day I was elected, including important work for veterans and children, and I do not intend to resign."

Senator Mitchell very much wants to address the specific accusations publicly, but understands that on our advice she must remain silent. Contrary to what has been said and written by others, there is effectively no actual evidence that has yet been made public. Litigating a criminal case correctly and justly takes time, and until those allegations are actually tested in a court of law--where the rules of evidence, the right of confrontation, and other components of due process are enforced--it is irresponsible to make hasty conclusions.

Available at <https://twitter.com/toreyvanoot/status/1783566918365979035>.

46. In that statement, Senator Mitchell referenced that there is more to the story, by stating that she is "extremely disappointed that the complaint lacks the complete information of the incident." She also clarified that she does "not intend to resign."

### **Political Ramifications**

47. After Senator Mitchell's arrest and public statements, other members of the Minnesota Senate have called on her to resign.

48. In one example, Minnesota Republican Party ("GOP") Senate Leader Mark Johnson called for her resignation because the "complaint released by the Becker County Attorney lays out the case of a person who took extensive preparation to burglarize a family member's home. This behavior is unbecoming of a member of the

Legislature and she needs to resign from the Senate immediately.” Tom Hauser, “X”, <https://twitter.com/thauserkstp/status/1782812925842858088>.

49. Additionally, an ethics complaint was filed against Senator Mitchell by nine Minnesota Senators. In that complaint, the Senators explain that Minnesota Senate Rule 56.1 requires that members “adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct.” And Rule 56.2 states that members shall not “publish or distribute written material if the member knows or has reason to know that the material includes any statement that is false or clearly misleading.” Finally, Rule 56.3 classifies improper conduct by a senator, in part, as conduct that “betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute.” The ethics complaint argues that Senator Mitchell has violated all three rules by her behavior on April 22 and by issuing public statements in direct conflict with her statements made to law enforcement. A true and correct copy of the ethics complaint is attached as **Exhibit C**.

50. A vote to expedite the ethics complaint and immediately consider Senator Mitchell’s expulsion failed in a 33-33 tie, with Senator Mitchell absent from the Senate and not voting. *See* Anthony Gockowski & Luke Sprinkel, *Minnesota Senate grinds to a halt as ethics complaint filed against Nicole Mitchell*, Alpha News (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://alphanews.org/minnesota-senate-grinds-to-a-halt-as-ethics-complaint-filed-against-nicole-mitchell/>.

51. The Minnesota Senate, with its legislative session ending on May 20, 2024, is currently at a standstill with the floor votes of several bills scheduled for April 24 and April 25 being put on hold. *See id.*

52. Senator Mitchell has been told by DFL Majority Leader Erin Murphy that she is allowed to vote remotely while the legal process plays out. Steve Karnowski, *Attempt to expedite ethics probe of Minnesota state senator charged with burglary fails on tie vote*, AP (Apr. 24, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/minnesota-senator-burglary-charge-arrest-legislature-b99ec6a9ed3bedc76cc4e79f934476d9>.

53. Governor Tim Walz gave his first public statement on Senator Mitchell's arrest on April 25, 2024. He stated that that this was a “[h]eartbreaking” situation but there were also “some very serious questions [that] need to be addressed.” Walz stated that he felt answers “need to be provided very quickly here” and that “there is a strong responsibility that elected officials are held to a high standard.” Peter Callaghan, “X”, <https://twitter.com/CallaghanPeter/status/1783582819475694060>.

54. There is also speculation that voters in District 47 (Woodbury) will initiate a recall petition against Senator Mitchell. See Blois Olson, “X”, <https://twitter.com/bloisolson/status/1783538981121978640>.

55. The political ramifications of Senator Mitchell's arrest are not entirely unexpected. In 2021, St. Paul Police pulled over Minnesota State Representative John Thompson for driving without a front license plate and issued him a citation for driving while under suspension. Representative Thompson accused the police department of racism, and the St. Paul Police Chief defended his sergeants. See Stephen Montemayor, *St. Paul police chief disputes DFL Rep. John Thompson's racial profiling claim*, Star Tribune (July 9, 2021), <https://www.startribune.com/st->

[paul-police-chief-disputes-dfl-rep-john-thompson-s-racial-profiling-claim/600076586/](https://www.kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/rep-john-thompson-releases-statement-gives-ok-for-st-paul-police-to-show-body-cam-video/).

56. As local media reported at the time, the result was that “[q]uestions continue[d] to swirl around Minnesota Rep. John Thompson.” There was also an ethics complaint filed by a GOP Minnesota Representative and a statement rebuking Representative Thompson by the DFL Party Chairman. See Tom Hauser, *Rep. John Thompson releases statement, gives OK for St. Paul Police to show body cam video*, KSTP (Aug. 3, 2021), <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/rep-john-thompson-releases-statement-gives-ok-for-st-paul-police-to-show-body-cam-video/>.

57. St. Paul police looked into releasing the body-camera footage without Representative Thompson’s consent, and Representative Thompson eventually agreed that he “fully support[ed]” calls to release the footage. See *id.*

### **Public Reaction**

58. Lots of ink has been spilled by Minnesota media outlets speculating on how the rest of the 2024 legislative session will play out given Senator Mitchell’s criminal charges. In one such article, it was noted that Senator Mitchell’s decision to resign could depend on the publicly available evidence: “The arresting officers did have body cameras, and that footage could clear up any discrepancies or show evidence not cited in the criminal complaint.” Peter Callaghan, *Will a break-in put the brakes on the Minnesota DFL’s state government trifecta?*, MinnPost (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://www.minnpost.com/state-government/2024/04/senator-nicole-mitchell-arrest-resign-minnesota-dfl-state-government-trifecta/>.

59. In the absence of clarifying evidence, speculation has run rampant. One commentator noted that “[i]mplicit in Mitchell’s story is that the Becker County attorney and Detroit Lakes PD are engaged in fabricating evidence against her, and kept her in jail overnight over a simple misunderstanding. Those are serious allegations.” Jeff Kolb, “X”, <https://twitter.com/jpkolb/status/1783165097050882350?s=46>.

60. That commentator went on to state that “[i]f authorities in Becker County are fabricating evidence against a sitting State Senator we have huge issues. Is Mitchell asking the DOJ and the State AG to look into this corruption?” *Id.*

61. Another commentator similarly reported “Mitchell must explain why her public statement conflicts significantly with the criminal complaint, which was signed ‘under penalty of perjury.’” That commentator added that Senator Mitchell should “authorize the release of any body camera footage of her arrest and processing.” And that until “the conflict between her public statement and criminal complaint is resolved, Mitchell should not participate in any proceedings of the Minnesota Senate.” This commentary has been viewed by nearly 53,000 “X” users, demonstrating the importance of Senator Mitchell’s conduct to the public. Michael Brodkorb, “X”, <https://twitter.com/mbrodkorb/status/1782901251472023925>.

62. The victim has also been interviewed by the media. Her report that she gave Senator Mitchell some of her father’s ashes adds further confusion to this story. *See Paul Jurgens, Lawmaker charged with burglary in Detroit Lakes, accused of entering*

*stepmother's home*, KFGO (Apr. 23, 2024), <https://kfgo.com/2024/04/23/lawmaker-charged-with-burglary-in-detroit-lakes-accused-of-entering-stepmothers-home/>.

### **The Data Request**

63. On April 23, 2024, Alpha News submitted a formal data request pursuant to the MGDPA to the Detroit Lakes Police Department. Alpha News requested “All Detroit Lakes police body-worn camera video from April 22, 2024, between the hours of 4:40 a.m. and 6 a.m. related to the arrest of Nicole Lynn Mitchell on Granger Road.”

64. In response, Steven Todd, the Chief of Police for Detroit Lakes stated that “[w]e are prohibited by statute from releasing body worn camera data in this instance.” Specifically, body worn camera data is private, *see* Minn. Stat. § 13.825, subd. 2(3), and active criminal investigation data is confidential or protected nonpublic, *see id.* § 13.82, subd. 7.

65. Alpha News submitted an identical data request to the Becker County Sheriff's Office and received a substantially similar response.

### **Statement of Claims**

#### **COUNT I**

#### **Action to Authorize Disclosure Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7**

66. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations above.

67. The MGDPA “established a presumption that all government data are public and are accessible by the public for both inspection and copying unless there is federal law, a state statute, or a temporary classification of data that provides that certain data are not public.” Minn. Stat. § 13.01, subd. 3.



68. “[I]nvestigative data collected or created by a law enforcement agency in order to prepare a case against a person, whether known or unknown, for the commission of a crime or other offense for which the agency has primary investigative responsibility are confidential or protected nonpublic while the investigation is active.” Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7.

69. This provision covers portable recording system data as long as the criminal investigation remains active. Minn. Stat. § 13.825, subd. 2(a)(3).

70. Upon information and belief, Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7 also covers footage from cameras mounted on a police squad car, or “dash cam” footage.

71. An investigation is active until (a) a decision by the agency or appropriate prosecutorial authority not to pursue the case; (b) expiration of the time to bring a charge or file a complaint under the applicable statute of limitations, or 30 years after the commission of the offense, whichever comes earliest; or (c) exhaustion of or expiration of all rights of appeal by a person convicted on the basis of the investigative data.

72. Upon information and belief, the criminal investigation against Senator Mitchell is still active because she has been charged and her appeal rights have not expired or been exhausted.

73. Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subdivision 7 authorizes “any person” to “bring an action in the district court located in the county where the data are being maintained to authorize disclosure of investigative data.”

74. The court “shall . . . examine[]” the data “in camera,” and may then order “all or part of the data relating to a particular investigation be released to the public or to the person bringing the action.” *Id.*

75. In determining whether investigative data should be disclosed, “the court shall consider whether the benefit to the person bringing the action or to the public outweighs any harm to the public, to the agency or to any person identified in the data.”

76. The public benefit from releasing this camera footage, which could corroborate or refute the criminal complaint and/or public statements by Senator Mitchell, is substantial.

77. There is a strong public interest and benefit in knowing about the truth related to criminal charges against a sitting State Senator, especially where she and her attorney have publicly contradicted the sworn criminal complaint with public statements, and numerous officials, including Governor Walz, have stated that answers “need to be provided very quickly here” and that “there is a strong responsibility that elected officials are held to a high standard.

78. The potential harm of releasing the data to any person identified in the data is small; all it will reveal is what happened on April 22, 2024 and what Senator Mitchell, the victim, and law enforcement officers said and did.

79. The public benefit greatly outweighs any potential harm to Senator Mitchell or the Detroit Lakes Police Department.

80. Moreover, there is little to no risk of harm to the victim, as she has already given interviews about Senator Mitchell’s alleged burglary of her residence, been identified as Senator Mitchell’s stepmother—and, in Senator Mitchell’s public statements, had her mental faculties criticized—a transcript of her 911 call has already been released. She has also been protected by a no-contact order by the Court against Senator Mitchell. And her public identity could be ordered redacted by the court. Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7.

81. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to the release of any and all recordings Defendants’ possession from (a) portable recording systems worn by officers of the Detroit Lakes Police Department, including Officers Wothe and Sternhagen, or (b) dash camera footage from police squad cars, related to Court File No. 03-CR-24-654, *State of Minnesota v. Nicole Lynn Mitchell*. Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 7.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Alpha News respectfully prays that this Court:

a) Hold a hearing as soon as practicable to review the data in camera and decide whether to authorize its release;

b) Authorize Defendants’ immediate release to Alpha News and the public of any data in Defendants’ possession from (a) portable recording systems worn by officers of the Detroit Lakes Police Department, including Officers Wothe and Sternhagen, or (b) dash camera footage from police squad cars, related to Court File No. 03-CR-24-654, *State of Minnesota v. Nicole Lynn Mitchell*, including but not limited to the body-

worn camera video from April 22, 2024, between the hours of 4:40AM and 6:00AM related to the arrest of Nicole Lynn Mitchell on Granger Road; and

c) Order such additional relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

**UPPER MIDWEST LAW CENTER**

Dated: April 26, 2024

/s/ James V. F. Dickey  
Douglas P. Seaton (#127759)  
James V. F. Dickey (#393613)  
Alexandra K. Howell (#504850)  
8421 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 300  
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55426  
james.dickey@umlc.org  
(612) 428-7000

*Attorneys for Petitioners*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that sanctions may be imposed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 549.211.

Dated: April 26, 2024

/s/ James V. F. Dickey  
James V. F. Dickey (#393613)