

MOUNT HOREB MAIL

Thursday, May 26, 2022

[Home](#) [News](#) [Election News](#) [Sports](#) [Opinion](#) [Photos](#) [Subscriptions](#)

HOME / HOME

Russian national sues Mount Horeb

Tue, 05/24/2022 - 11:10am

By KEVIN MURPHY

A Russian national is suing the village of Mount Horeb and two of its police officers for allegedly violating his constitutional rights when they seized his passport and social security card while searching his apartment.

Seizing Kirill Konovalov's personal documents exceeded the scope of the search warrant which only authorized the seizure of a variety of electronic devices, said Konovalov's attorney, John Bradley.

The suit filed in federal court, included an affidavit which officer Natalie Wyss submitted for a search warrant to obtain evidence that alleged Konovalov had unlawfully used an individual's personal identity.

Unauthorized use of personal information is a felony punishable by a maximum of six years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

According to the affidavit:

In late January, police officers Jennifer Schaaf and Wyss began investigating a report by a Mount Horeb man who said someone had applied for a credit card in his name without his consent.

The man, who will not be named in this story, said that his personal information had been compromised through Smart Solutions, of Madison, and his identifying information was now being monitored. The monitoring firm notified him of a change in his credit file.

Chase Bank was contacted about the bogus application and police learned that it was filed via the internet from an internet user on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Campus police informed Wyss that the internet user was Konovalov who lived in university housing on Eagle Heights Drive.

In early April, Wyss watched Konovalov's apartment and, based on his UW photo ID, saw him leave the apartment building.

On April 29, Wyss executed the search warrant that sought seizure of a vast variety of electronic equipment ranging from fax machines to computer input-output devices.

The search warrant affidavit also requested seizure of any financial or personal documents belonging to anyone other than Konovalov.

A list of the seized items dated May 2 included computers, cell phones, thumb drives, media cards, a router and hard drives. Also, Konovalov's Russian passport and miscellaneous documents, a Hong Kong student visa and Antonia Kosikova's passport and personal documents.

Konovalov has not been charged in Dane County but there's no indication that forensic analysis of the seized devices has been completed.

Police Chief Doug Vierck said the department was served with the suit Friday and he hadn't previously had any unusual comments from his officers about the Konovalov search.

It's common practice for police to seize some document to identify who the subject or suspect is but Vierck couldn't comment on how long such documents are typically retained.

In an emailed response to a reporter's questions, Bradley said his client, a post-doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is "completely innocent."

"He is a Ph.D. chemist specializing in the use of theoretical chemistry to treat diseases and employed at one of the top research universities in the world. He is not spending his free time nicking identities of citizens of Mount Horeb to apply for a credit card."

Kosikova, whose personal documents were also seized, is a friend and fellow researcher visiting Konovalov when the search was conducted, Bradley said.

Konovalov is not a flight risk but wants his passport returned because Bradley alleged it was unlawfully taken and is still being held.

"[I]n the United States, when police officers violate the constitution, the insurance company for their employer is going to have to pay for the damages caused by their illegal conduct. That is exactly what we are seeking here, along with the prompt return of Mr. Konovalov's passport," Bradley wrote.

Vierck didn't know yet if the village board had referred the suit to its insurer.

Mount Horeb, WI

Weather	Rain	Sun
64.8 °F Rain Showers		
SW Wind 6.9mph		
53 °F 68 °F		
51 69 FRI	60 74 SAT	69 82 SUN
5:54 AM Thu May 26		

LATEST NEWS

Local man heads to Poland to feed war refugees

Imagine feeling so much fear for your safety that you pack a few suitcases, leave your home, and flee your country. You no longer have a job, a place to stay, or an income. You don't know what you...



Power line cost surges

It was revealed Friday that the cost of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kilovolt transmission line has ballooned by millions of dollars thanks to inflation and costs associated with the ongoing battle...



Russian national sues Mount Horeb

A Russian national is suing the village of Mount Horeb and two of its police officers for allegedly violating his constitutional rights when they seized his passport and social security card while...

Shooting death was 'tragic accident'

A local teenager died early Sunday morning last week in what Dane County sheriff Kalvin Iverson. Barrett called a tragic accident involving a rifle. In a press conference at noon on Wednesday last week...



Bradley filed suit on May 10, seeking the passport's return and for unspecified damages for violations of his Fourth Amendment protection against unlawful search and seizure.

Should this article be featured?:

Yes

Section: NEWS

How Operation Fresh Start is transforming Stewart Park

Many people in Mount Horeb know about recent restoration efforts as Stewart Park. What they might not be aware of, however, is the key role that a group of disconnected youth played in the work, all...

MOUNT HOREB MAIL

114 East Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI
<http://mounthorebmail.com/>

 Subscribe to our RSS Feed

SURFnew
media