

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

DONATE NOW



SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

THE BADGER PROJECT

Independent, hard-hitting news in Wisconsin



[Politics](#) [Law Enforcement](#) [News Blog](#)

**NEWSLETTER SIGN
UP**

[About](#) [The Team](#) [Contact Us](#)

DONATE

Search...

Wisconsin police chief sued 3x, accused of unconstitutional stops

September 15, 2026

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)



Photo from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office's facebook page.

A sheriff's deputy and small-town police chief, Brendan Cutrell, is the subject of three federal lawsuits alleging he violated the Fourth Amendment rights of individuals he pulled over.

By Annie Pulley, THE BADGER PROJECT

Brendan Cutrell, a deputy and police chief in central Wisconsin, is being sued in federal court for three different traffic stops his accusers say violated their constitutional rights.

Cutrell is a deputy for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and a part-time police chief for the Village of Neshkoro. Tucked inside Marquette County, the village is home to 412 people, according to 2020 census data.

A village employee responded to a message from The Badger Project asking about Cutrell.

“(Cutrell) said the lawsuits are open and pending regarding cases for Marquette County and Columbia County, so you should contact either Marquette County or Columbia County for any information

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

completed an internal review of the Columbia County case. ' review determined that Cutrell didn't violate any policies.



Though the accusers are different in each case, their attorneys are from the same Madison law firm: Strang Bradley.

Cutrell's accusers all claim he violated their Fourth Amendment rights, which provide protections from unreasonable searches and seizures. The plaintiffs are seeking civil damages and reimbursement for their legal fees from the counties, Marquette and Columbia, that employed Cutrell at the time.

Two of the lawsuits stem from traffic



Brendan Cutrell. Photo from the Neshkoro Police Department's Facebook page.

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

One of the two lawsuits alleges that Cutrell detained Juway who was living in Illinois at the time, while he was on his way to a cabin in the Wisconsin Dells on April 24, 2023. 

Cutrell wrote in his police report that he was immediately suspicious of Damm because he was “slower than normal” pulling over. But the dash camera, the lawsuit claims, shows Damm pulling over immediately when Cutrell flipped on the flashing lights of his squad car.

Cutrell wrote that he became increasingly suspicious of Damm, requested a canine and put spike strips in front of one of Damm’s tires. The lawsuit claims Damm never indicated he would flee. And though Damm’s insurance was valid and Cutrell printed a warning for a loud exhaust, the complaint claims Cutrell unconstitutionally delayed his release to wait for a canine. Cutrell later arrested Damm for operating while intoxicated, and the canine found a small amount of marijuana in the car, the lawsuit states.

On April 25, 2023, law enforcement cited Damm for a first-offense OWI. That citation was dismissed that June. The district attorney also charged Damm with possessing drug paraphernalia and THC. Those misdemeanors were both dismissed in August 2023, according to the Marquette County Clerk of Courts.

Damm “filed a motion to suppress the evidence and upon review of the motion, the State concluded that there was no articulable reason for the extension of the stop to wait for the K9 officer to arrive,” wrote Marquette County District Attorney Clifford Burdon in an email. “Based on my conclusion, I dismissed the case.”

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)



The second lawsuit against Marquette County claims that Cutrell unconstitutionally prolonged another traffic stop in December 2023.

Cutrell cited Brian Burnside, for speeding and the dark tint on his windows, according to the lawsuit filed by Burnside's attorneys. 911 dispatchers confirmed Burnside had no warrants for his arrest, that his license was current and his car was properly registered, the lawsuit states.

Cutrell then told Burnside and his companion, who was driving with him to the Dells, that they were not free to leave and would need to wait for a canine to arrive. He told them he was extending the stop because Burnside had been deviating in the lane and pulled over too slowly. Cutrell also said he could smell cologne, which could be used to mask other odors.

After the canine arrived, police found marijuana and a firearm in Burnside's car, which led to criminal charges. A judge in Marquette County dismissed those charges.

The third case, filed in July, arose from an arrest in May 2025. Cutrell, then working as a Columbia County Sheriff's Office deputy, wrote in his report that he stopped Dennis Lloyd, the driver, and Ashley Stowell, the passenger, because the light over their license plate was out. Squad car video, however, shows the license plate visible and illuminated, according to the civil lawsuit filed by Lloyd and Stowell.

"Indeed, Cutrell ran the Jeep's license plate before pulling it over, and when it returned to Stowell, with whom he had prior contact, he requested a K9," the lawsuit reads.

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

traffic stop, including an OWI fourth offense and possession of a controlled substance.”



Lloyd was eventually charged nearly a year later, in April 2026. Lloyd, Stowell and their attorneys filed the federal lawsuit in July 2026.

In the criminal case, Lloyd faces charges for a fourth-offense OWI, which is a felony, a misdemeanor for possessing THC and another felony for operating with a restricted and controlled substance. His next court date is Sept. 30. The federal lawsuit for crimes that were allegedly discovered during the traffic stop in May 2025, court records show.

Burnside’s and Damm’s federal lawsuits are waiting for a judge to decide whether Cutrell is liable.

In the Lloyd and Stowell case, the defendants Columbia County and Cutrell have yet to respond to the plaintiffs’ complaint, which was filed in July.

The Badger Project is an independent, reader-supported news nonprofit in Wisconsin.

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

A story like this needs at least 8 hours to research,
write and edit.



**Please consider financially supporting The Badger
Project to help us do more reporting in the future.**

DONATE

Republish This
Story

Columbia County

Columbia County Sheriff's Office

law enforcement

Marquette County

Marquette County Sheriff's Office

police misconduct

Wisconsin

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)



[Portage Co deputy
suspended after brawl
outside neighbor's
house](#)
August 25, 2026



[Wisconsin police chief
sued 3x, accused of
unconstitutional stops](#)
September 15, 2026



[Gun found in
courthouse renews
security/cost debate in
rural Wisconsin](#)
September 11, 2026



← [Gun found in courthouse renews security/cost debate in rural Wisconsin](#)

Comments

Leave a Reply

Write a comment...

Comment

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

recurring donation - as little as \$5/month



DONATE

MORE POSTS

Gun found in courthouse renews security/cost debate in rural Wisconsin

September 11, 2026

Sauk Co Jail inmate charged with sexual assault, accused of raping cellmate

September 9, 2026

Deputies driving squads to homes outside Waupaca County are sheriff's call

September 8, 2026

Forest Co K9 deputy who was forced out after investigation back in policing

September 1, 2026

Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)

Contact Us



Help us investigate state politics in
Wisconsin with a small, monthly donation.
As little as \$5 a month.

Donate Today



Help us investigate the powerful in Wisconsin!

Set up a small, monthly donation to help us do this important work! (as little as \$5/month)



Share