

May 6, 2024

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Chair
Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Chair,

Attached to this letter is an amended complaint regarding the conduct of Senator Nicole Mitchell. The attached amended complaint includes revisions to the original complaint filed on April 24, 2024. The amended complaint includes the content of the original complaint, with added citations and relevant information discovered since the initial complaint filing (articles 11 and 19).

It is not our intent to withdraw our original complaint, but that the attached amended complaint should substitute for the original complaint going forward. Please contact us if we can provide any additional information or materials to the Subcommittee.

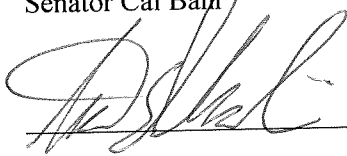
Sincerely,



Senator Cal Bahf



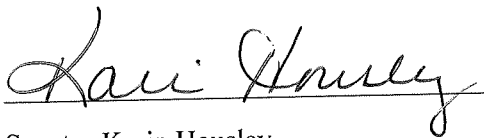
Senator Rich Draheim



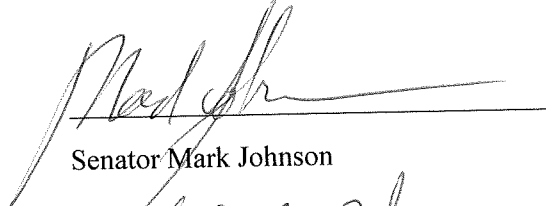
Senator Steve Drazkowski



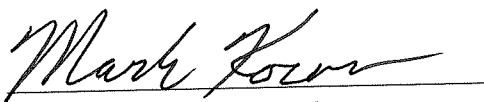
Senator Steve Green



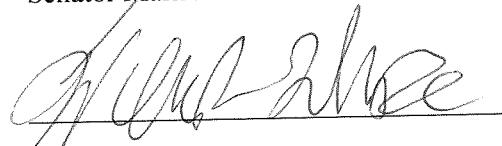
Senator Karin Housley



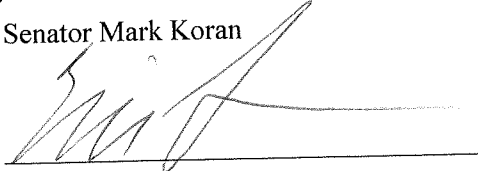
Senator Mark Johnson



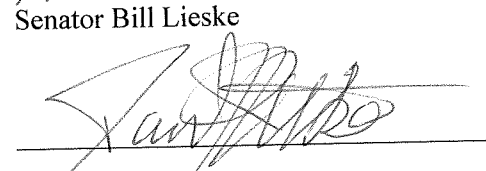
Senator Mark Koran



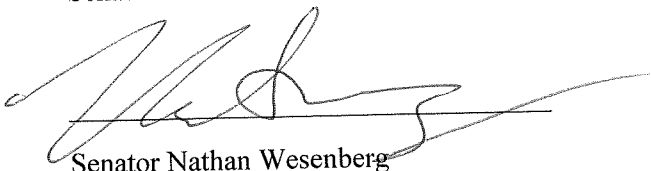
Senator Bill Lieske



Senator Eric Lucero



Senator Paul Utke



Senator Nathan Wesenberg



1st AMENDED COMPLAINT

**COMPLAINT
TO THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT
REGARDING THE ACTIONS
OF
SENATOR NICOLE MITCHELL**

Senators Bahr, Draheim, Drazkowski, Green, Housley, Johnson, Koran, Lieske, Lucero, Utke, and Wesenberg, each being first duly sworn, state and allege under oath the following based upon information and belief:

Sen. Mitchell violated Senate Rules 56.1, 56.2, and 56.3 by breaking into the home of an elderly family member, attempting to steal the victim's personal effects, and subsequently attempting to cover up her conduct by publishing conflicting information.

1. On April 22, 2024, Senator Nicole Mitchell was booked into the Becker County Jail for a violation of Minn. Stat. §609.582, Subd. 1, Burglary- first degree. (Exhibit A)
2. At approximately 4:45 a.m., the Detroit Lakes Police Department was dispatched to the home owned by Carol (Freitag) Mitchell, Senator Mitchell's stepmother. (Exhibits A and B)
3. After being located by police in the basement of the residence wearing all black clothing and a black hat, Senator Mitchell was ordered to the ground and placed under arrest. (Exhibit A)
4. A flashlight was discovered near Senator Mitchell that appeared to have been modified with a black sock to control the amount of light emitting from the flashlight. (Exhibit A)
5. Responding officers observed a basement window propped open with a black backpack, which contained Senator Mitchell's Minnesota driver's license, Minnesota Senate identification card, two laptops, a cellphone, and Tupperware containers. Senator Mitchell admitted she had entered the home through the window where the bag was discovered. (Exhibit A)
6. When questioned about ownership of one of the laptops contained in the backpack, Senator Mitchell told the officer the victim had given her the laptop "way back when;" however, when the device was opened and turned on, the screen displayed the victim's name. When the officer asked the victim whether she had given the laptop to Senator Mitchell, she responded that she had not. (Exhibit A)
7. According to the criminal complaint filed in Becker County District Court, Senator Mitchell stated she had "just gotten into the house" and "clearly I'm not good at this." After having received a Miranda rights warning, Senator Mitchell proceeded to tell the officer "I know I did something bad." (Exhibit A)
8. Senator Mitchell admitted to arresting officers she left Woodbury at around 1:00 a.m. According to Google Maps, a non-stop drive from Woodbury to Detroit Lakes takes 3 hours and 38 minutes. (Exhibit A)
9. Senator Mitchell was released by the Becker County Jail on April 23, following an 11:00 a.m. hearing at which she was given the conditions of her release. Conditions of her release included

travel restrictions and adherence to a restraining order filed by the victim and granted by the court. (Exhibit C)

10. A violation of Minn. Stat. §609.582, Subd. 1, (Burglary in the first degree) is a felony, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and/or a fine of \$35,000. However, a burglary committed while the dwelling is occupied carries an enhanced penalty, requiring a minimum sentence of at least six months incarceration.
11. During Carol (Freitag) Mitchell's 911 call to police, she reported an intruder in her house and asked for help. She said she didn't get a look at the intruder in the dark but, "I tripped over 'em. Ah, he was on the floor next to my bed. He ran downstairs into my basement." (Exhibit B) Following Senator Mitchell's release from the Becker County Jail, Carol (Freitag) Mitchell told 5 Eyewitness News "She was dressed like a burglar at the foot of my bed...I get goosebumps just talking about it. [...] I think she meant me physical harm. There's no other reason to be on the floor of my room." (Exhibit H)
12. Senate Rule 56.1 states: "Members shall adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct as embodied in the Minnesota Constitution, state law, and these rules."
13. Senator Mitchell's premeditated burglary - which included driving over three-and-a-half hours (dressed in all black clothing and hat), using a custom emittance-governed flashlight to forcibly enter the basement window of an occupied house at 4:45 in the morning, and attempting to covertly remove effects from the home - violates state law and the "highest standard of ethical conduct" required under Senate Rule 56.1.
14. Shortly after her release from the Becker County Jail, Senator Mitchell attempted to frame the public narrative and recharacterize the nature of her arrest; however, the social media statement Senator Mitchell issued directly conflicts with statements she made to law enforcement. (Exhibit D)
15. At approximately 2:30 p.m. on April 23, Senator Mitchell issued a Facebook statement, which included: "Over the weekend, I learned of medical information which caused me grave concern and **prompted me to check on that family member** (emphasis added). I entered a home I have come and gone from countless times in the past 20 years, where my son even once had his own room. Unfortunately, I startled this close relative, exacerbating paranoia, and **I was accused of stealing, which I absolutely deny** (emphasis added)." (Exhibit D)
16. Senator Mitchell's suggestion she was at the home to check on a family member is inconsistent with information presented in the criminal complaint. Specifically, that she forcibly entered the house through a basement window at 4:45 in the morning dressed in all black clothing, carrying a modified flashlight. In addition, Senator Mitchell told responding officers her stepmother had stopped communicating with the family, stating "that she previously got into an argument with Victim and they stopped speaking." (Exhibit A) According to a news report, Ms. (Freitag) Mitchell said she's afraid of her stepdaughter and was granted a restraining order against her. (Exhibit E)
17. Regarding the accusation of stealing, according to the criminal complaint, "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.'" She also explained to officers: "she wanted various items of her late father's and that Victim refused to give them to her." At the time of Senator Mitchell's arrest, she was in possession of a laptop which contained the victim's name.

Ms. (Freitag) Mitchell told police she did not voluntarily give the computer to Senator Mitchell.
(Exhibit A)

18. Senator Mitchell's own attorney, Bruce Ringstrom Sr., has conceded "it was her plan to go in and out without disturbing anyone." "She wanted to [...] retrieve a couple of items that she felt were being wrongfully withheld from her despite earlier promises." (Exhibit E)
19. Ringstrom also said, "Mitchell had a key to the house, but could not get in to check on her stepmother." (Exhibit E) However, according to a May 2nd 5 Eyewitness News report, "Carol told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS she didn't know Nicole had a key and she never gave her one." (Exhibit H)
20. Senate Rule 56.2 states: "A member 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..."
21. The written material Senator Mitchell published on April 24th includes statements which are "false or clearly misleading." This is a violation of Senate Rule 56.2.
22. As members of the Minnesota Senate, all senators take an oath to uphold and protect the constitution. This is a duty to uphold the rule of law, maintain high ethical standards, and represent the public with dignity and respect.
23. Senate Rule 56.3 states: "Improper conduct includes conduct that violates a rule or administrative policy of the Senate, that violates accepted norms of Senate behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute."
24. As outlined in the criminal complaint, Senator Mitchell's actions not only represent a felonious violation of state law, but they also clearly betray the public trust and bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute. In addition, the public's trust was blatantly violated when Senator Mitchell published a post-release statement on Facebook that directly conflicts with statements she made to law enforcement officers just one day prior.
25. As stated in a findings of fact document signed by law enforcement under the threat of perjury, Senator Mitchell explicitly admitted "I know I did something bad."

Your complainants ask that the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct investigate the details of these matters immediately. Given the severity of Senator Mitchell's conduct, it's imperative the Subcommittee work expeditiously to review the circumstances of this complaint and recommend discipline to the Rules Committee, pursuant to Rule 55.8. Specifically, the Subcommittee should investigate the true nature of Senator Mitchell's unwanted/unlawful entry into an estranged relative's home, the ways in which Senator Mitchell's published statements conflict with the criminal complaint filed in Becker County, and whether Senator Mitchell's conduct on April 23 and 24 is consistent with the Senate's ethical standards. The Subcommittee is encouraged to use its subpoena authority under Rule 55.3 to assist in ascertaining the facts related to this complaint.

Your complainants ask the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct find Senator Nicole Mitchell violated multiple parts of Senate Permanent Rule 56 and recommends such disciplinary action as the Subcommittee finds appropriate.

Date: May 6, 2024

Cal Bahr

Senator Cal Bahr

Steve Drazkowski

Senator Steve Drazkowski

Karin Housley

Senator Karin Housley

Mark Koran

Senator Mark Koran

Eric Lucero

Senator Eric Lucero

Nathan Wesenberg

Senator Nathan Wesenberg

Rich Draheim

Senator Rich Draheim

Steve Green

Senator Steve Green

Mark Johnson

Senator Mark Johnson

Bill Lieske

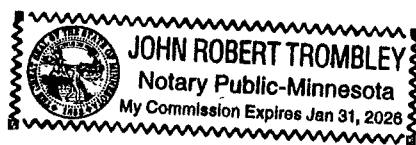
Senator Bill Lieske

Paul Utke

Senator Paul Utke

Subscribed to, and sworn before me, a notary public, on May 6, 2024

John Trombly



1/31/26

EXHIBIT A



State of Minnesota
County of Becker

District Court
7th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0030030383
Court File No. 03-CR-24-654

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

NICOLE LYNN MITCHELL DOB: 10/10/1974
3033 Leyland Trail
Woodbury, MN 55125
Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Burglary-1st Deg-Dwelling-Occupied-Non-Accomplice Present

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.1(a), with reference to: 609.582.1, 609.582.1a

Maximum Sentence: Not less than 180 days in jail or county workhouse and up to 20 years imprisonment, a \$35,000 fine, or both.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/22/2024

Control #(ICR#): 24000585

Charge Description: On or about April 22, 2024, in the County of Becker and State of Minnesota, Nicole Lynn Mitchell entered a dwelling without the consent of the lawful possessor, and with the intent to commit a crime while in the building, and another person, not an accomplice, was present in the building at the time the act was committed.



STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant is a duly acting and appointed peace officer and as such is familiar with the following facts:

On April 22, 2024, at approximately 4:45 a.m., Detroit Lakes police officers were dispatched to a residence in Detroit Lakes in Becker County on a report that somebody had broken into a residence. The reporting party, a known adult female (hereinafter "Victim"), stated that the suspect ran into the basement. Officer Ethan Wothe arrived on scene at Victim's residence. Once inside, Officer Wothe overheard movement coming from the basement.

Officer Wothe and Officer Sternhagen searched the basement and shortly thereafter located a female dressed in all black clothing and a black hat. The female, later identified as NICOLE LYNN MITCHELL (DOB: 10-10-1974), was ordered to 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." Officer Sternhagen discovered a flashlight near MITCHELL that had a black sock covering. The flashlight appeared to have been modified so as to control the amount of light emitting from the flashlight.

Officer Wothe searched for MITCHELL's point of entry into the house. He observed a window on the south wall of the basement and a black backpack stuck in a small sliding window. Officers searched the backpack and discovered two laptops, a cell phone, MITCHELL's Minnesota driver's license, MITCHELL's Senate identification, and miscellaneous Tupperware. Officer Wothe later spoke to MITCHELL about the laptops and MITCHELL said they were both hers. MITCHELL stated she had "just gotten into the house" and commented "clearly I'm not good at this."

At his squad, Officer Sternhagen read MITCHELL her *Miranda* warning. After hearing it, MITCHELL stated "I know I did something bad." MITCHELL explained that her father had recently passed away and that Victim (her stepmother) had ceased all contact with her and other family members. MITCHELL stated she wanted various items of her late father's and that Victim refused to give them to her. MITCHELL described these items as pictures, a flannel shirt, ashes, and other items of sentimental value. MITCHELL admitted to driving her vehicle up from the Twin Cities and noted that she left Woodbury around 1:00 a.m. MITCHELL admitted she got into the house through the window where the bag was discovered. At the jail, Officer Sternhagen asked what got MITCHELL "to this stage" and MITCHELL indicated that it was her father's ashes. She stated that she previously got into an argument with Victim and they stopped speaking.

Officer Wothe arrived at the jail and questioned MITCHELL about the laptops. Officer Wothe presented MITCHELL with the first laptop that was dark in color. MITCHELL opened the laptop and pressed a button and Victim's name popped up. The laptop was not password protected. MITCHELL then stated that Victim gave her the laptop "way back when."

Officer Wothe again spoke to Victim, who stated that she did not give a laptop to MITCHELL.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 609.49., intentional failure to appear for duly scheduled court appearances may result in additional criminal charges, and in addition to any arrest warrant that may otherwise be issued by the Court.



03-CR-24-654
SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
4/23/2024

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Steve Todd
Chief
807 Summit Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Badge: 6231

Electronically Signed:
04/22/2024 04:45 PM
Becker County, stodd

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Brian McDonald
Becker County Attorney
913 Lake Ave
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
(218) 847-6590

Electronically Signed:
04/22/2024 04:42 PM



03-CR-24-654

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

- Execute in MN Only*
- Execute Nationwide*
- Execute in Border States*

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: April 23, 2024.

Judicial Officer

Gretchen D. Thilmony

Electronically Signed: 04/23/2024 08:22 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF BECKER
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Nicole Lynn Mitchell

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of Detention upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:



03-CR-24-654
DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
4/23/2024

Name: Nicole Lynn Mitchell
DOB: 10/10/1974
Address: 3033 Leyland Trail
Woodbury, MN 55125

Alias Names/DOB: MN24EV6734
SID:
Height: 0lbs.
Weight:
Eye Color:
Hair Color:
Gender:
Race:
Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: Yes
Driver's License #:
Alcohol Concentration:



03-CR-24-654
STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

*Filed in District Court
 State of Minnesota
 4/23/2024*

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	4/22/2024	609.582.1(a) Burglary-1st Deg-Dwelling-Occupied-Non-Accompli ce Present	Felony	B1266		MN0030100	24000585
	Penalty	4/22/2024	609.582.1a Burglary-1st Deg-Occupied Dwelling-Mandatory Minimum	Felony	B1266		MN0030100	24000585
	Penalty	4/22/2024	609.582.1 Burglary-1st Degree	Felony	B1266		MN0030100	24000585



EXHIBIT B



April 22, 2024
4:45 AM
Case # DLP24000585
File # DLP24000585.wav

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911 CALL FROM

Q. (Dispatcher Joe Robbins) Becker County 911?

A. Ah, there's - somebody has broken into my house...

Q. []

A. and they just ran down into my basement.

Q. What's your address?

A. Ah, it's, ah, it's, oh, my God, uhm

Q. in DL?

A. yeah.

Q. (speaking on the radio) Becker 30 car for active burg,

A. []

Q. (officer on the radio) 37.

Q. (speaking on the radio) 37, party states a individual broke into their house and ran down in their basement.

A. I don't know if he's breaking out the back window or what.

Q. Did you get a look at him at all?

A. N - No, it was completely dark.

Q. (officer on radio) 05, Becker.

A. I tripped over 'em. Ah, he was on the floor next to my bed. He ran downstairs into my basement.

Q. (officer on the radio) [] Becker, enroute.

Q. Okay. Can you hear him breaking out the window in the basement?

A. I'm not hearing anything right now.

Q. Okay,

A. I don't know.

Q. but did it sound like he was breaking something?

A. I don't - I don't know. I, ah, -

Q. Okay.



- 1 A. I don't – maybe the window is already open down there. There's a basement – a drop
2 window that can crank open. I don't know.
3
- 4 Q. Okay.
5 A. Please, just get here.
6
- 7 Q. All right. I'll stay on – I'll stay on the line with you. Don't worry. I have officers
8 enroute right now. If you hear anything, just let me know what's going on, okay?
9 A. Okay.
10
- 11 Q. Are you armed?
12 A. I have a little steak knife in my hand right now.
13
- 14 Q. Steak knife, okay. All right.
15 A. I don't know where they could have...I don't see any, uhm, uhm, my yard lights
16 haven't come on outside or anything. You know, I've got a motion light in back or
17 anything.
18
- 19 Q. Did you notice any vehicles or anything like that?
20 A. No. No, I haven't.
21
- 22 Q. (speaking on the radio) 30 cars, it sounds like this individual broke in, the RP got up
23 and almost tripped over whoever was lying down inside the house before they ran
24 into the basement.
25 Q. (officer on the radio) 37 copies.
26 Q. Okay, am I speaking with ?
27 A. Yes. I don't know what the hell is going on. My God.
28
- 29 Q. Do you hear anything at all?
30 A. No.
31
- 32 Q. (officer on radio) 05, Becker, is there any exits from the basement?
33 Q. (speaking on the radio) There's a drop window. Uhm, she doesn't know if he got it
34 open yet or not.
35 A. On the back side of the house, yeah, on the –
36
- 37 Q. What's that?
38 A. On like – on the back side of the house, yes.
39
- 40 Q. Okay.
41 A. I just turned a small light on in my backyard and I'm trying to look out over that
42 window and –
43
- 44 Q. Did you hear or see any vehicles drive away?
45 A. No, I haven't. I just heard something in the win – downstairs now.
46



- 1 Q. Okay. (speaking on the radio) Female believes she –
2 A. []
3
4 Q. (speaking on the radio) 10-4. She believes she just heard something else -
5 A. Cop in front of me.
6
7 Q. (speaking on the radio) ah, in the basement.
8 A. There's – is that police?
9
10 Q. There's a – there's officers that just came outside your residence, yeah. He just came
11 []
12 A. Okay. Hold on one second. (speaking in the background) Sorry, I'm still in jammies
13 here. Uhm, there's a drop window in the back side of the house and I don't know if
14 that's how -
15
16 (multiple officers speaking in the background/unable to understand)
17 A. He ran down there.
18
19 Q. (unidentified officer) Okay. I'll go down there. You stay back here.
20 A. Okay.
21
22 Q. All right, , you can –
23 A. Should I –
24
25 Q. (unidentified officer in the background) Police Department!
26 Q. you can –
27 A. Should I hang up?
28
29 Q. Yep, you can hang up.
30 Q. (unidentified officer in the background) Make yourself known!
31 A. Okay. Thank you.
32
33 Q. Yep, bye.
34
35
36 END OF CALL
37
38 ljl



EXHIBIT C



**Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota**

Apr 23 2024 11:42 AM

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BECKER**

**DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH DISTRICT**
Court File Number: 03-CR-24-654
Case Type: Crim/Traf Mandatory

RELEASE ORDER

State of Minnesota vs Nicole Lynn Mitchell

Parties Present

**MCDONALD, BRIAN WARREN
Mitchell, Nicole Lynn
State of Minnesota**

**Attorney
Defendant
Jurisdiction**

Nicole Lynn Mitchell, is being charged with the following:

1. Burglary-1st Deg-Dwelling-Occupied-Non-Accomplice Present
April 22, 2024 (Felony) 609.582.1(a) (6095821a) Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

IT IS ORDERED THE DEFENDANT SHALL BE RELEASED UPON THE FOLLOWING:

Mitchell, Nicole Lynn
April 23, 2024

- Post Bail or Bond with No Conditions, \$40,000.00
- Release with Conditions, \$0.00
- Remain law-abiding
- Keep court/attorney informed of current address
- Make and maintain contact with attorney
- Make all future court appearances
- No contact with victim(s)
- Do not leave Minnesota without written court approval, with the exception for travel for official duties or travel to Cass County, ND;
- No Violations of An Active Civil/Criminal No Contact Order
- No violations of an Order for Protection

IF YOU VIOLATE THIS ORDER:

- You could be arrested;
- Your bond or bail could be forfeited;
- You could be charged with a new crime; and/or
- You could be held in contempt of court.

The terms of this order will remain in effect until another court order changes or vacates this order, until you are found not guilty of the criminal charges in this case, until the criminal charges against you are dismissed, or until the sentencing in this case.



**Your Next Court Appearance is scheduled for:
June 10, 2024 3:30 PM Omnibus Hearing
Thilmony, Gretchen
Splonskowski, Jennifer
Courtroom 2A**

You may appear in person **OR** remotely, unless otherwise ordered by a judicial officer. You do not need to notify the court how you plan to appear for the hearing.

Appearing In Person

The hearing will be held at the following location:

**Becker County District Court
913 Lake Ave
Detroit Lakes MN 56501-3403
218-846-5040**

OR

Appearing Remotely

The hearing will be held via Zoom and shall be by video.

To join by Zoom:

1. Go to <https://zoomgov.com/join>.
2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 161 236 7491**
3. If asked, enter the **Meeting Passcode: 223830**
4. Update your name by clicking on your profile picture. If you are representing a party, add your role to your name, for example, John Smith, Attorney for Defendant.
5. Click the **Join Audio** icon in the lower left-hand corner of your screen.
6. Click **Start Video**.



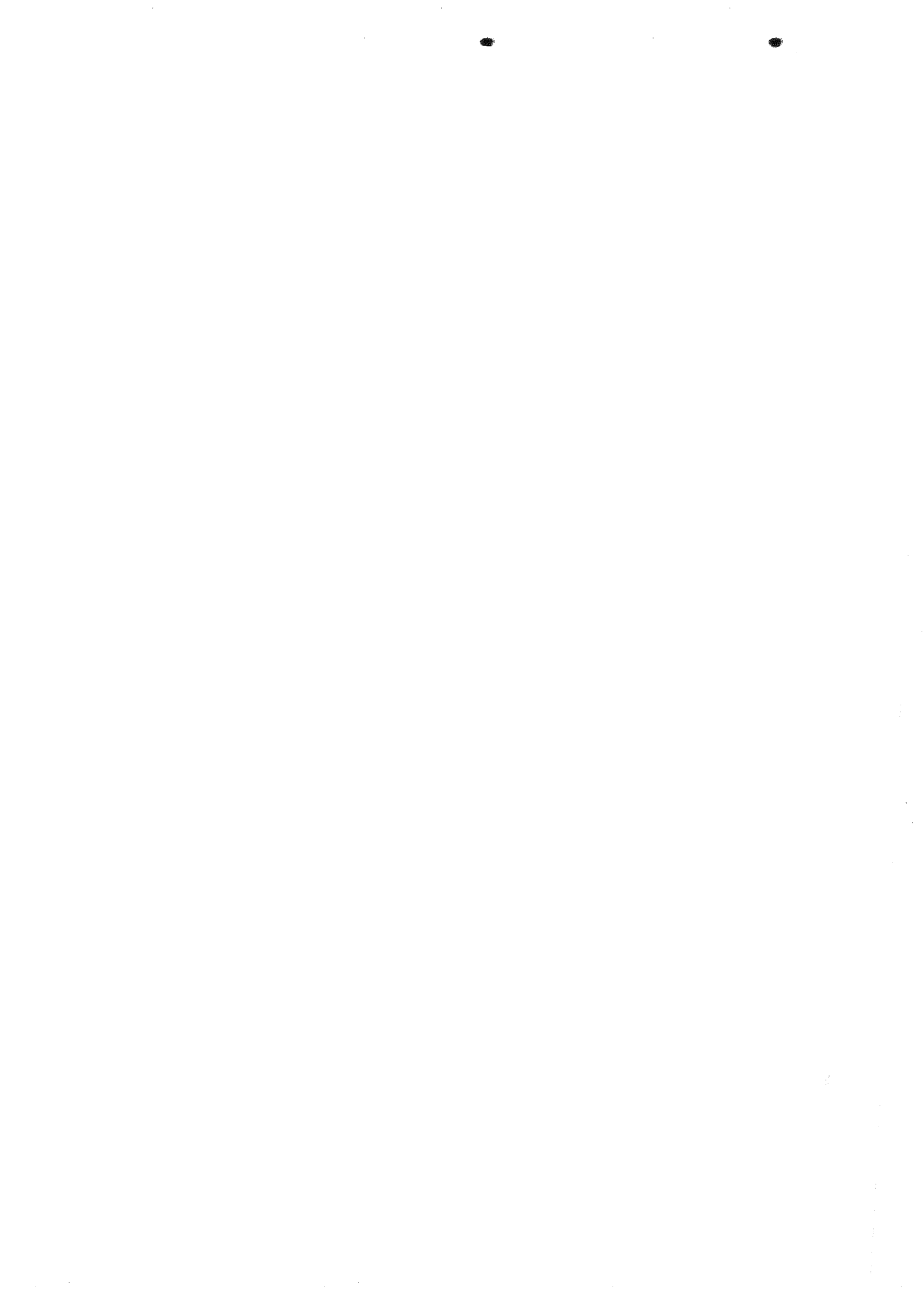
To receive an eReminder for future court dates via e-mail or text, visit <http://www.mncourts.gov/Hearing-eReminders.aspx> or scan the QR code to enroll.

Date: April 23, 2024

Gretchen D. Thilmony
JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT



EXHIBIT D



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Nicole Mitchell

6d ·

Regarding the recent news:
 Like so many families, mine is dealing with the pain of watching a loved one decline due to Alzheimer's and associated paranoia. Over the weekend, I learned of medical information which caused me grave concern and prompted me to check on that family member. I entered a home I have come and gone from countless times in the past 20 years, where my son even once had his own room. Unfortunately, I startled this close relative, exacerbating paranoia, and I was accused of stealing, which I absolutely deny. Thank you to all my friends (and colleagues of both parties) for the kind words of support and for trusting my character even before I had a chance to respond. This has been a true tragedy for our family and my hope is it can return to being a private matter.

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EXHIBIT E



DFL state senator charged with first-degree burglary at stepmother's home

Sen. Nicole Mitchell's arrest could cause political complications for Democrats, who control the Minnesota Senate by a one-seat margin.

By [Ryan Faircloth](#) and [Rochelle Olson](#) Star Tribune April 23, 2024 — 7:34pm

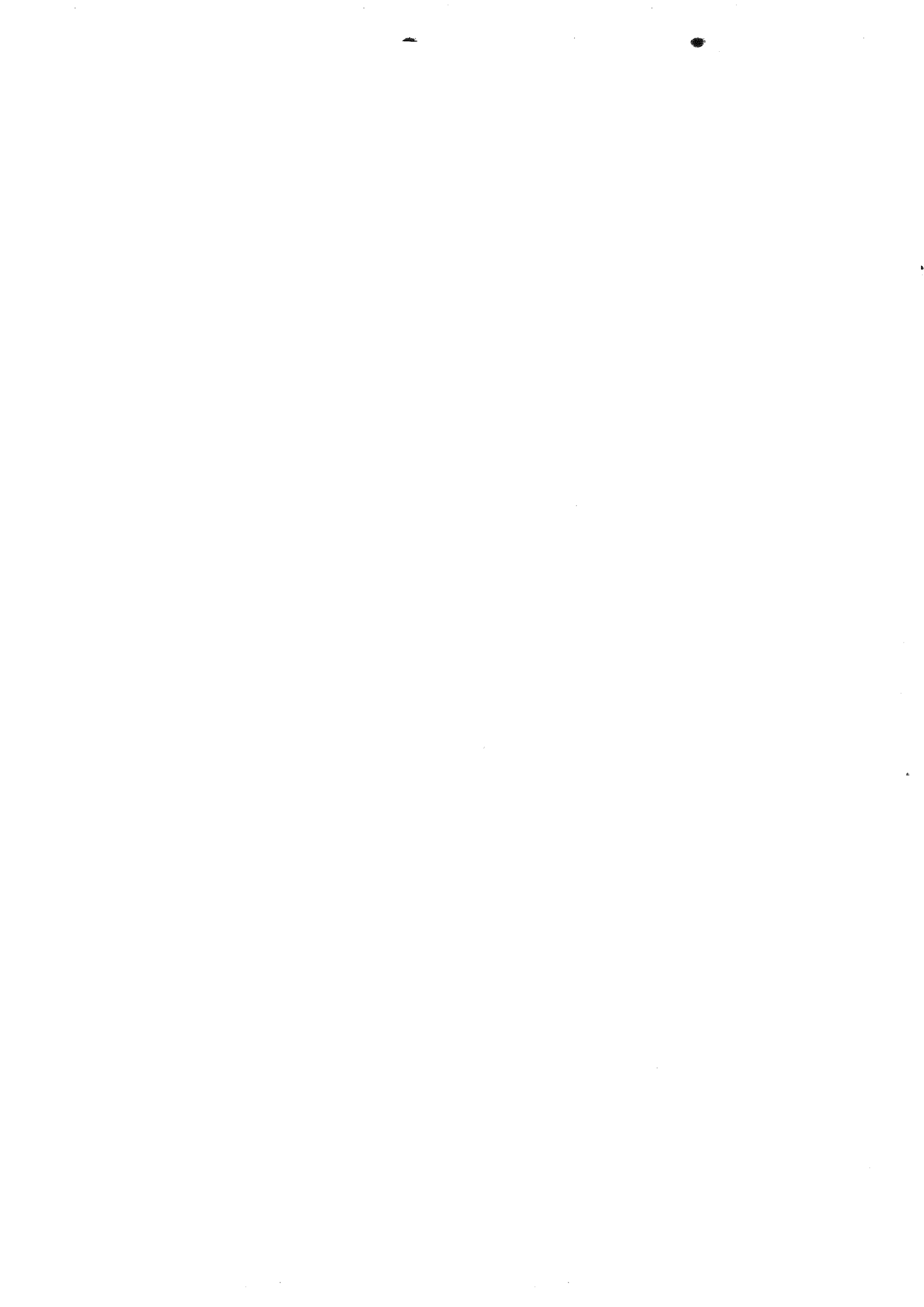
Democratic state Sen. Nicole Mitchell was charged with first-degree burglary on Tuesday after she allegedly broke into her stepmother's house a day earlier to take her late father's belongings.

Mitchell, a first-term senator from Woodbury, was arrested in Detroit Lakes early Monday morning. Officers responded to a burglary call around 4:45 a.m. and arrested the 49-year-old Mitchell at the scene.

Police found Mitchell in the basement of her stepmother's home "dressed in all black clothing and a black hat," according to the charges filed Tuesday. As she was being detained, she told her stepmother "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,'" the charges state. Her father died last year.

Officers found a flashlight near Mitchell that had with a black sock covering it. A sliding window in the basement had been opened and had a black backpack stuck in it, according to the charges.

"Officers searched the backpack and discovered two laptops, a cellphone,



Mitchell's Minnesota driver's license, Mitchell's Senate identification, and miscellaneous Tupperware," the charging document states. Mitchell allegedly told an officer that both laptops were hers and that she had "just gotten into the house," and commented, "Clearly, I'm not good at this."

After an officer read Mitchell her Miranda warning, Mitchell stated, "I know I did something bad," the filing states. She told the officer her father recently passed away and her stepmother ceased all contact with the family. Mitchell wanted some of her late father's belongings, such as pictures, a flannel shirt and ashes, and said her stepmother had refused to give them to her.

Her father, Roderick Mitchell, died in March 2023 at age 72. His estate was settled in January. The senator and her stepmother were listed as the only two heirs.

Mitchell's estate valued at \$172,931 was left entirely to Carol Mitchell, according to court documents filed in Becker County. Roderick Mitchell didn't have a will, but the court gave his estate to his surviving spouse.

The senator admitted to police that she left Woodbury around 1 a.m. to get to the house, and that she entered through the window where the backpack was found, the complaint states. An officer asked her what brought her to this point, and she said it was her father's ashes.

One of the items that Mitchell attempted to take was a laptop that appears to belong to her stepmother, according to the charging document: An officer "opened the laptop and pressed a button and Victim's name popped up. The laptop was not password protected. Mitchell then stated that Victim gave her the laptop 'way back when.'" The stepmother told the officer she never gave Mitchell the laptop.

Conflicting accounts



The stepmother spoke to the Associated Press on Tuesday, saying she's afraid of her stepdaughter and that she had previously sent Mitchell a miniature container with some of her husband's ashes. She did not respond to the Star Tribune's requests for comment.

Mitchell shared her own version of events in a Facebook post Tuesday afternoon, suggesting her stepmother has declined "due to Alzheimer's and associated paranoia."

"Over the weekend, I learned of medical information which caused me grave concern and prompted me to check on that family member. I entered a home I have come and gone from countless times in the past 20 years, where my son even once had his own room," Mitchell wrote. "Unfortunately, I startled this close relative, exacerbating paranoia, and I was accused of stealing, which I absolutely deny."

Mitchell is charged with first-degree burglary, a felony that carries a sentence of anywhere from six months in the workhouse to 20 years in prison. As a first-time offender, Mitchell would be unlikely to get the maximum. The charge also carries a fine of up to \$35,000.

The senator appeared remotely in court from the Becker County jail on Tuesday morning. She was seated in a holding room next to her attorney Bruce Ringstrom Sr. Ringstrom spoke as Mitchell sat silently in orange jail attire.

Judge Gretchen Thilmony set bail at \$40,000 without conditions. She allowed Mitchell to leave without posting cash or bond provided she follow conditions, including not leaving the state except for official legislative business or to visit Cass County, N.D., where Ringstrom said she has family.

The judge also said she had signed a restraining order against Mitchell on



behalf of an alleged victim identified in court as C.M. Mitchell's stepmother is Carol Mitchell.

The senator did not enter a plea; her next hearing was set for 3:30 p.m. June 10.

In an interview Tuesday afternoon, Ringstrom said Mitchell was trying to make a welfare check on her stepmother.

"She had information that the alleged victim's cognitive abilities are steadily declining. The family is all aware that the alleged victim here has been demonstrating extraordinary paranoia and blocking people out," Ringstrom said.

He said Mitchell had a key to the house but could not get in to check on her stepmother "as well as try to retrieve the items that are hers." Asked why Mitchell allegedly wore all black and carried a flashlight with a sock over it, Ringstrom said, "I agree that all of those circumstances would suggest that it was her plan to go in and out without disturbing anyone."

"I believe she was trying to protect herself from being noticed. I am not going to deny that," he said. "She wanted to basically make a check and retrieve a couple of items that she felt were being wrongfully withheld from her despite earlier promises."

Political consequences?

Mitchell is a former Twin Cities meteorologist and Air Force veteran. Her arrest could cause political complications for Democrats as they head into the final month of this year's legislative session.

The DFL controls the Minnesota Senate by a one-seat margin and wouldn't



be able to pass bills without bipartisan support if Mitchell isn't there to vote.

Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, R-East Grand Forks, called for Mitchell's immediate resignation on Tuesday.

"I understand the difficult situation her family is facing; however, the actions taken by Sen. Mitchell are disturbing. 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," Johnson said. "This behavior is unbecoming of a member of the Legislature."

Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, DFL-St. Paul, said in a statement Tuesday that "the allegations against Senator Mitchell are upsetting."

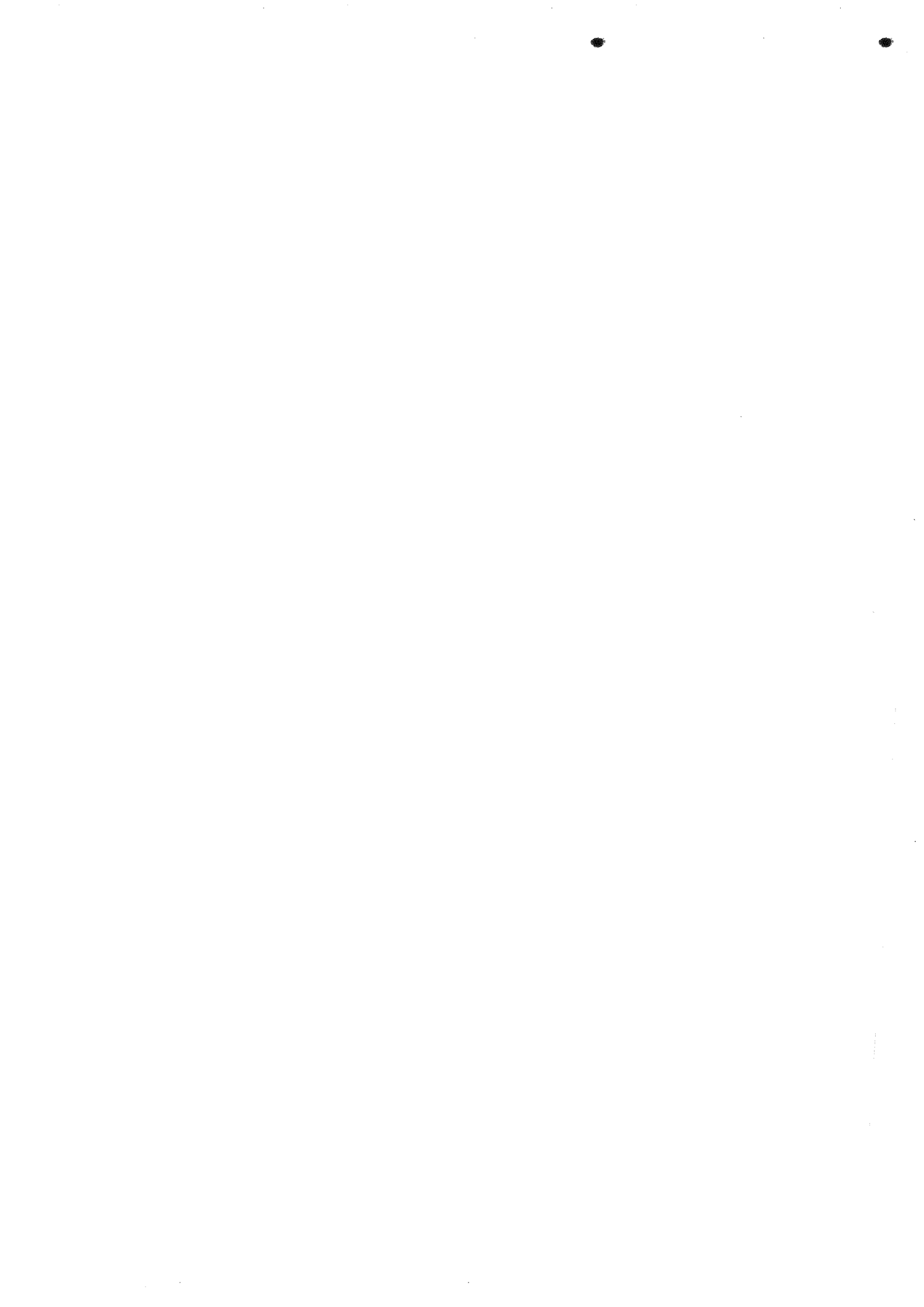
"The behavior alleged is far outside the character she has established in the Senate and in her distinguished career in the military. We believe in due process, and Senator Mitchell has the right to a full defense of her case in court," Murphy said. "In the coming days and weeks, Senator Mitchell must also have serious and difficult conversations with her colleagues, constituents and family."

Ringstrom said he's advised Mitchell not to resign from the Senate and added that he doubts Murphy will ask her to. He said he expects her to return to the State Capitol on Wednesday.

"I've specifically told her ... don't do anything, don't make any changes to your position or your career. Just follow the advice of your Senate leader," Ringstrom said. "No matter what the facts are, she is presumed to be innocent."

Read the complaint:

(Can't see the document? [Click here.](#))



DFL state Sen. Nicole Mitchell charged with first-degree burglary in break-in at stepmother's home



EXHIBIT F



Lawyer for Minnesota lawmaker arrested for Detroit Lakes burglary says client is 'flabbergasted'

The Minnesota Republican Party has called for Nicole Mitchell's immediate resignation.



Senator Nicole Mitchell speaks on the senate floor.

Minnesota Senate TV

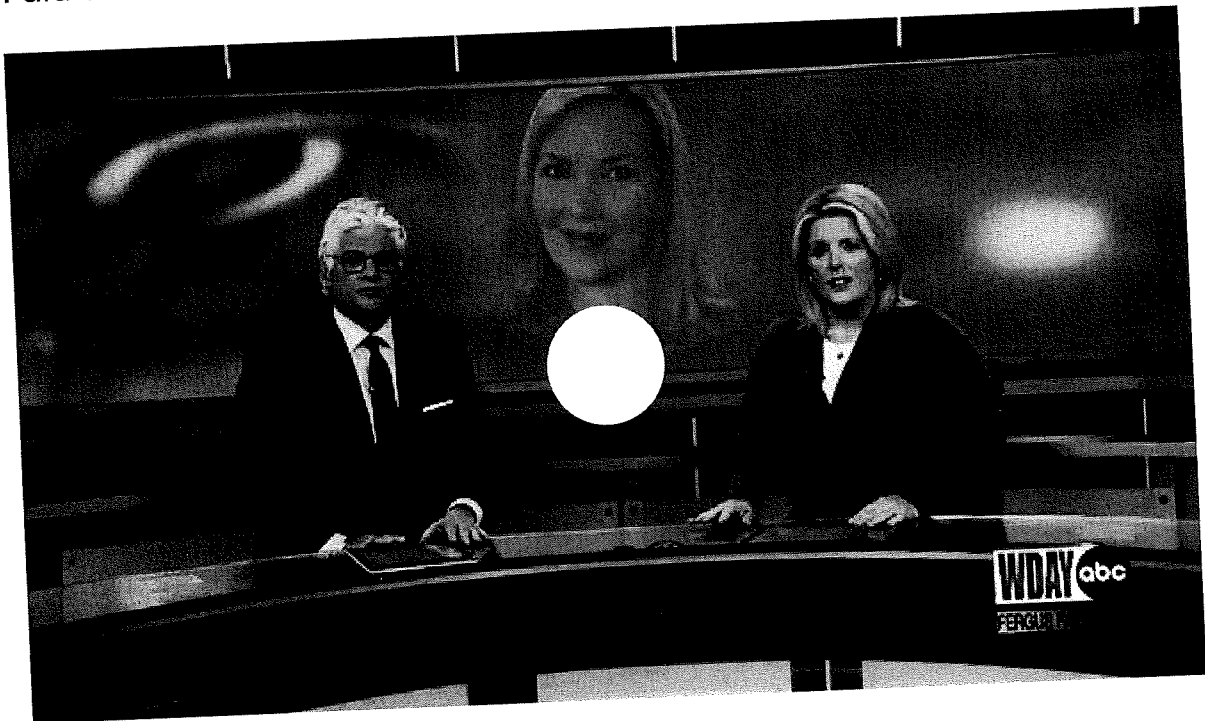
DETROIT LAKES — New information Tuesday, April 23, is providing different accounts of what led to the arrest of Minnesota State Sen. Nicole Mitchell, who is accused of breaking into her stepmother's home.



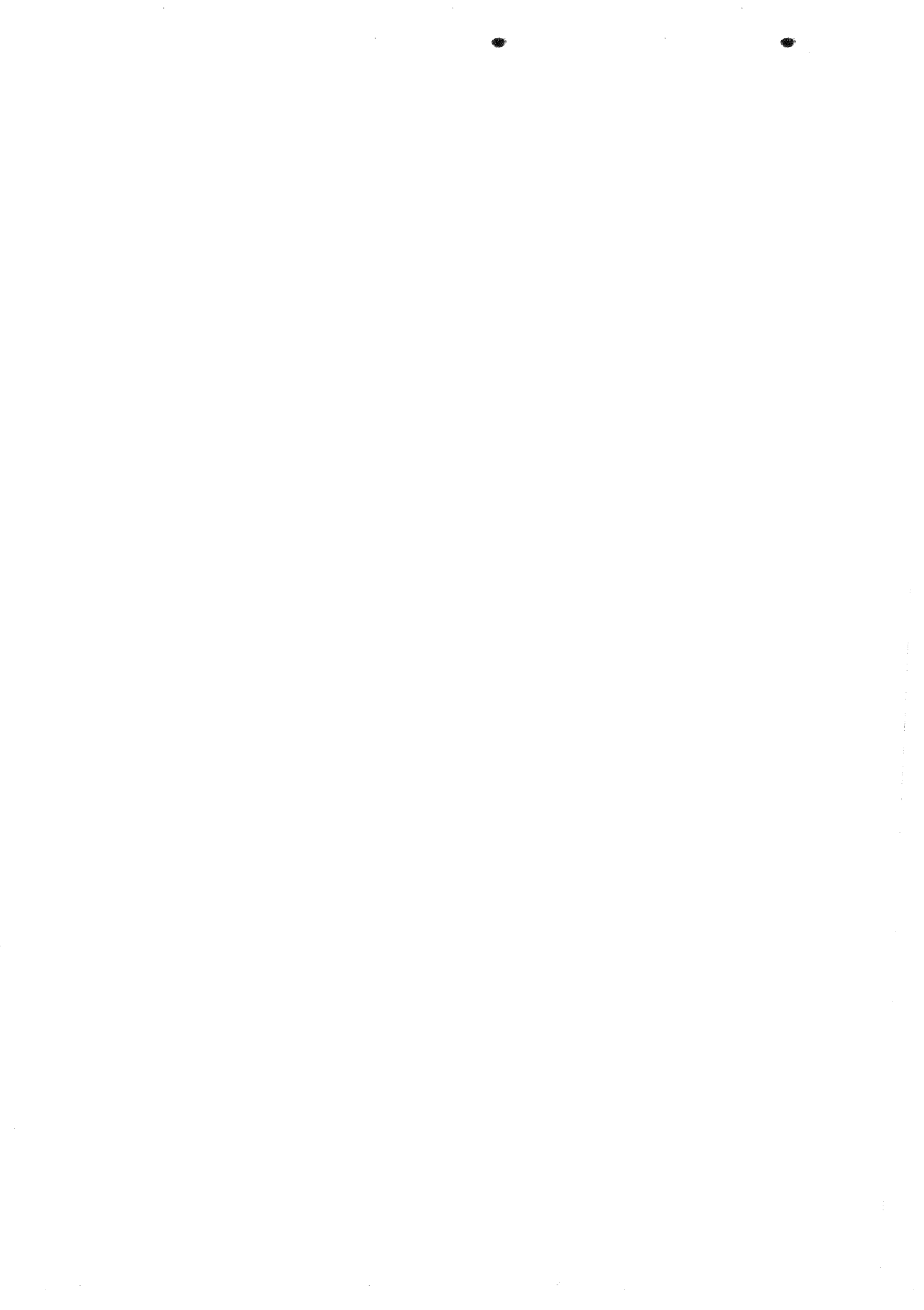
Mitchell was released on her own recognizance after appearing in Becker County court Tuesday.

A criminal complaint says Mitchell's stepmom found Mitchell inside her home around 4:45 Monday morning, dressed all in black.

Mitchell, who is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and former broadcast meteorologist, told officers her father recently passed away and her stepmother cut off contact with the rest of her family, saying "I know I did a bad thing."



Lawyer for Minnesota senator says she is 'flabbergasted' by burglary case
Tuesday afternoon, Mitchell posted on Facebook about a loved one having Alzheimer's disease, writing, "Over the weekend, I learned of medical information which caused me grave concern and prompted me to check on that family member. I entered a home I have come and gone from countless times in the past 20 years."



"Unfortunately, I startled this close relative and I was accused of stealing, which I absolutely deny."

The Minnesota Republican Party has called for Mitchell's immediate resignation.

Democrats say the allegations are upsetting and far outside of the senator's character, but she deserves her day in court.

"She's pretty flabbergasted by how this all blew up when it was sort of a private family matter," said her lawyer, Bruce Ringstrom Sr.

The lawyer for Mitchell doubled down on the senator's claim that this incident was simply to check on her stepmother and grab a few things.

He revealed the senator has a key to the home.

"If someone is paranoid and they barricade the door and they don't allow visitors so that you can't even check on her 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 that were promised, and are hers," he said.

People were seen coming and going from the home Tuesday. Ringstrom said he understands why some may question the 200-mile trip from the Twin Cities area to Detroit Lakes and sneaking in through a window in the middle of the night.

"She (the stepmother) was medicated and would be sleeping soundly and she (Mitchell) could check on her welfare and see how she's doing in the house because she doesn't let anyone visit her or come in," he said.

Ringstrom said the senator had been exploring the legal process of getting



guardianship over her stepmother — claiming she has seen a cognitive decline — but stopped when lawyers advised her she may not have everything a judge would need to grant guardianship.

Ringstrom said he told Mitchell not to resign from the senate.

"Say nothing, do your job, and let us go to work," he said.

Felony first-degree burglary into an occupied dwelling carries a mandatory minimum of 180 days in jail or a county workhouse. The maximum punishment is 20 years in prison.

Mitchell is due back in court in June.



EXHIBIT G



Lawmaker charged with burglary in Detroit Lakes, accused of entering stepmother's home

Paul Jurgens Apr 23, 2024 | 10:46 AM

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. (KFGO) – A state senator from Woodbury, Minnesota has now been charged with burglary for breaking into her stepmother's home in Detroit Lakes.

Nicole Mitchell, 49, told police that she broke into the house to retrieve some of her late father's belongings, including his ashes. Police say Mitchell told responding officers that her stepmother had broken off contact with the family.

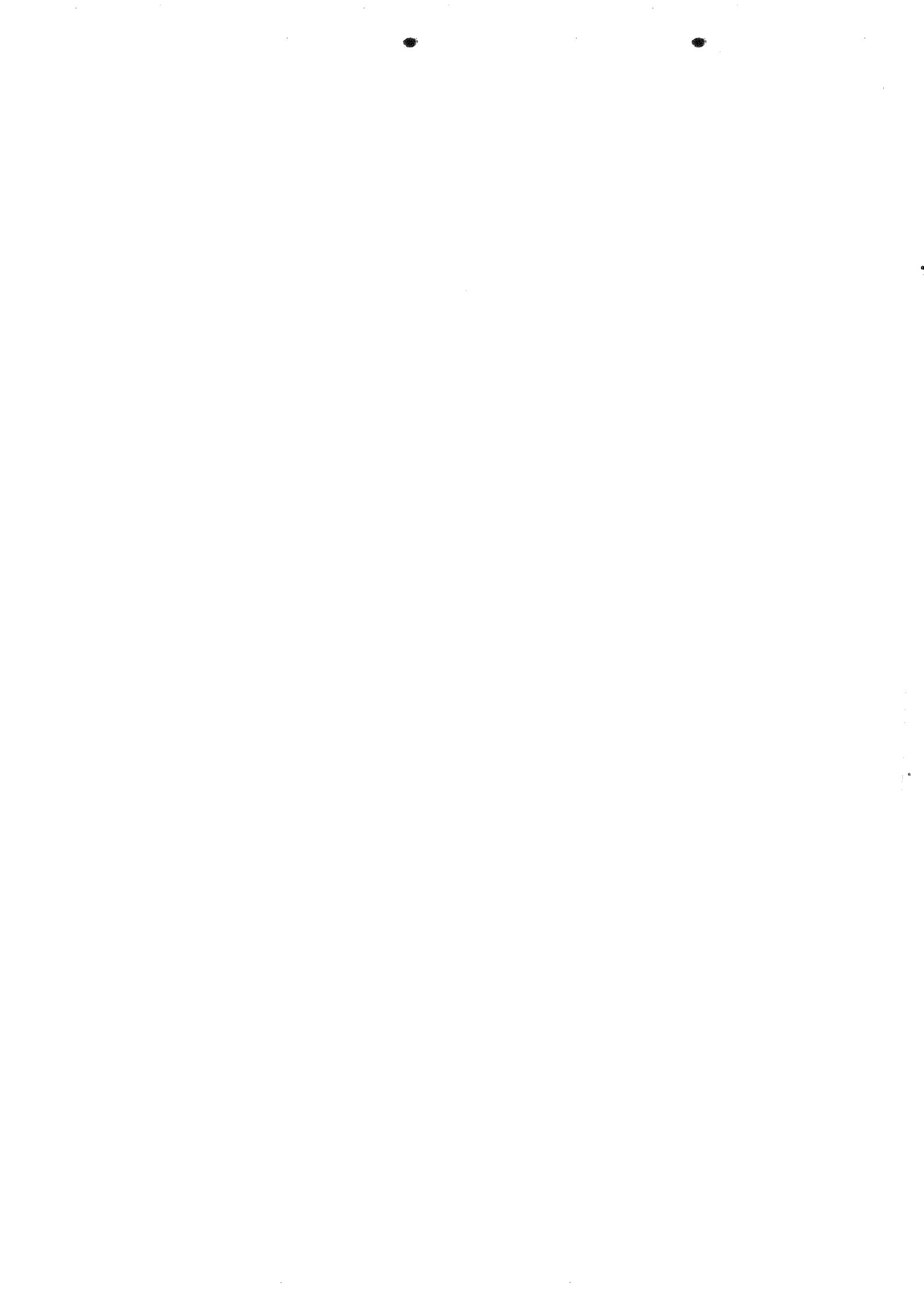
Mitchell was dressed all in black and wearing a black hat, the complaint said. The officer said he discovered a flashlight near her that was covered with a black sock, apparently modified to control the amount of light coming from it.

The complaint, filed in Becker County District Court in Detroit Lakes, charges Mitchell with one count of first-degree burglary, a felony.

"I know I did something bad," the complaint quoted Mitchell as saying after she was told of her right to remain silent.

Mitchell's father, Rod Mitchell, died last month, according to an obituary posted by a Detroit Lakes funeral home. He had been married to Mitchell's stepmother for 40 years, it said.

Mitchell told the officer she was after pictures, a flannel shirt, ashes and



other items, but that her stepmother had ceased all contact with her and that they weren't speaking, the complaint said. But it was the ashes that got her "to this stage," it said.

The senator acknowledged that she had entered the house through a basement window that had been propped open with a black backpack, the complaint said. Officers found her Minnesota Senate ID inside it, along with her driver's license, two laptop computers, a cellphone and Tupperware containers, the complaint said. She indicated that she got caught soon after entering.

"Clearly I'm not good at this," it quoted her as saying.

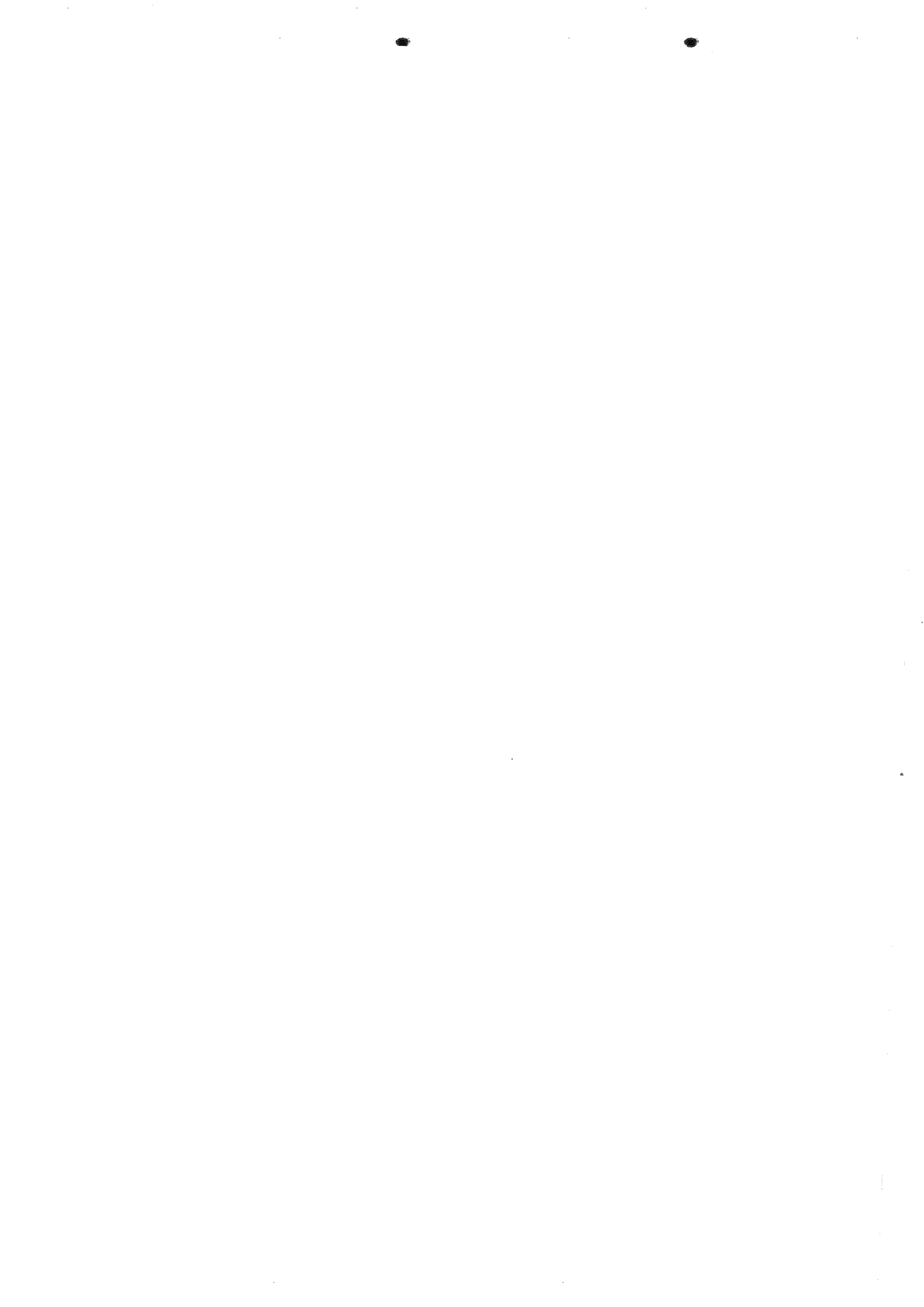
The stepmother said in an interview that she's afraid of her stepdaughter and applied for a restraining order against her. She also said that while most of her husband's ashes were buried, she sent Mitchell a miniature container with some of them.

Mitchell was arrested while the Senate is on its Passover break. Her arrest comes at an awkward time for Senate Democrats, who hold just a one-seat majority with just under four weeks left in the legislative session. Her absence would make it difficult to pass any legislation that lacks bipartisan support.

Mitchell's arrest took Senate leaders by surprise. The Senate Democratic Caucus said in a statement Monday that it's "aware of the situation and has no comment pending further information."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mark Johnson, of East Grand Forks, said he was shocked but knew very few details.

"The public expects Legislators to meet a high standard of conduct,"



Johnson said in a statement. "As information comes out, we expect the consequences to meet the actions, both in the court of law, and in her role at the legislature."

Mitchell worked as a meteorologist with the U.S. military and for KSTP-TV and Minnesota Public Radio before she was elected to the Senate in 2022 from a suburban St. Paul district. She still serves as lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard, commanding a weather unit, her official profile says. She worked for The Weather Channel earlier in her career, her profile says.

She got into the home through a basement window. Mitchell said he left her home about 1 a.m. Monday. The break-in was reported at 4:45 a.m.

Mitchell is a Democrat who was elected to the legislature in 2022. She represents Woodbury and Maplewood.

She's a former radio and TV meteorologist and a commander with the Minnesota National Guard.



EXHIBIT H






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Sen. Mitchell's stepmother still fearful after burglary: 'I get goosebumps talking about it'

Tom Hauser KSTP

Updated: May 2, 2024 - 6:59 PM

Published: May 2, 2024 - 6:17 PM

Sen. Mitchell's stepmother still fearful after burglary: 'I get goosebumps talking about it' 

The stepmother of DFL state Sen. Nicole Mitchell says she remains fearful more than a week after her stepdaughter's arrest for allegedly burglarizing her home in Detroit Lakes.

"She was dressed like a burglar at the foot of my bed...I get goosebumps just talking about it," 74-year-old Carol Mitchell told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS in a phone interview this week. Carol was married to Nicole's father until he died in March 2023.



In **explaining her actions in a statement posted on Facebook**, Nicole wrote, in part, "Like so many families, mine is dealing with the pain of watching a loved one decline due to Alzheimer's and associated paranoia. Over the weekend, I learned of medical information which caused me grave concern and prompted me to check on that family member."

When asked about Nicole's Facebook post, Carol acknowledged that "I was very recently diagnosed with very early stages of Alzheimer's."



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However, she says she hasn't spoken to Nicole about it and that she has not expressed concern.

"You don't make a care call in the middle of the night in a bandit outfit," Carol said regarding Nicole's assertion she was there to check on her.

When Nicole was arrested in Carol's basement by Detroit Lakes Police, a criminal complaint says they "located a female dressed in all black clothing and a black hat. The female, later identified as Nicole Lynn Mitchell, was ordered to the ground and placed under arrest." The complaint also says she was wearing a black hat and had a black sock pulled over a flashlight.

When police later interviewed Nicole and asked her what brought her to this point, she said she was looking for her dad's ashes and other items of sentimental value. However, Carol told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS she sent Nicole a portion of her dad's ashes in an "urn the shape of a bobber" because her dad was an avid fisherman.

Nicole's attorney couldn't be reached for comment Thursday afternoon, but last week he said the criminal complaint left out "exculpatory" facts that could change the perception of the case, including the fact that he says Nicole has key to Carol's house. Carol told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS she didn't know Nicole had a key and she never gave her one.

In the criminal complaint, police say after they **arrested her**, Nicole told them, "Clearly, I'm not good at this" and "I know I did something bad."

Carol declined an on-camera interview, but on the phone told 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS about Nicole, "I think she meant me physical harm. There's no other reason to be on the floor of my room."



In a statement released last week, Nicole said, "I am confident that a much different picture will emerge when all of the facts are known."

She faces a Senate Ethics Subcommittee hearing on Tuesday after **Senate Republicans filed an ethics complaint and have repeatedly asked her to resign.**

Mitchell's next criminal court appearance in Becker County is scheduled for June 10.

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EXHIBIT I



Senate Floor Debate Transcript, April 30, 2024

Sen. Karin Housley

Something that Senator Latz mentioned. I was wondering if Senator Murphy would yield.

President Champion

Senator Murphy. Will you yield? She will yield. Senator Housley.

Sen. Karin Housley

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Latz mentioned that Senator Mitchell was removed from your caucus. I'm just wondering if that is the truth. Has she been removed from your caucus?

President Champion

Senator Murphy. To the question.

Sen. Erin Murphy

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Housley, I have been clear that Senator Mitchell is not participating in our caucus.

President Champion

Senator Housley.

Sen. Karin Housley

Thank you, Senator Murphy, Mr. President. You stated she is not currently participating with your caucus, but Senator Latz said she has been removed from your caucus. Has Senator Mitchell been removed from your caucus, Senator Murphy?

President Champion

Senator, uh - Senator Housley is asking Senator Murphy to yield. Senator Murphy will yield to the question. Senator Murphy.

Sen. Erin Murphy

Thank you, Mr. President. And to Senator Housley. Yes.



EXHIBIT J



Kupec: Sen. Mitchell should seriously think about resigning

Ryan Janke Apr 30, 2024 | 11:30 AM

MOORHEAD (KFGO) – Moorhead state Sen. Rob Kupec says, if he were in fellow Democratic Sen. Nicole Mitchell's position, he would probably resign.

Mitchell, of Woodbury, is charged with burglary after allegedly breaking into her stepmother's home in Detroit Lakes last week.

Kupec says he understands it's the last three weeks of the session, but he feels Mitchell should have discussions with leaders and constituents in her district because the evidence doesn't play well for her.

"She needs to have that serious conversation and seriously be thinking about, maybe... 'I need to set this aside, focus on my family, focus on my legal issues, and not also be distracted by my senate work,'" Kupec says.

Kupec says lawmakers need to be held to the highest ethical standards. He added that an ethics committee will meet before Mitchell's trial.

"For her, that's probably not good because there will be things that probably come out in that ethics committee that she'd probably rather hold off until trial or not have disclosed at a trial," Kupec says. "That does put her in kind of a difficult situation in terms of her legal matters, but those are things we need to look into. There is a process and certainly as we move down the road, as things change, you could see how – at some point as a body – we could say, 'you know what? You need to leave.'"



Kupec says if Mitchell did step down, it would create a tie on the Senate floor, and would take a special election to fill that position.



EXHIBIT K



Statement From Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy

Senator Erin Murphy by Senator Erin Murphy, April 28, 2024

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy (DFL- St. Paul) released the following statement regarding Senator Nicole Mitchell (DFL-Woodbury):

"This is a tragic situation, and there are still questions that need to be answered. The legal investigation is ongoing, and last week, we referred her case to the Senate Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct. While the case is under review both in the Senate and in the courts, Senator Mitchell will be relieved of her committee assignments and removed from caucus meetings."



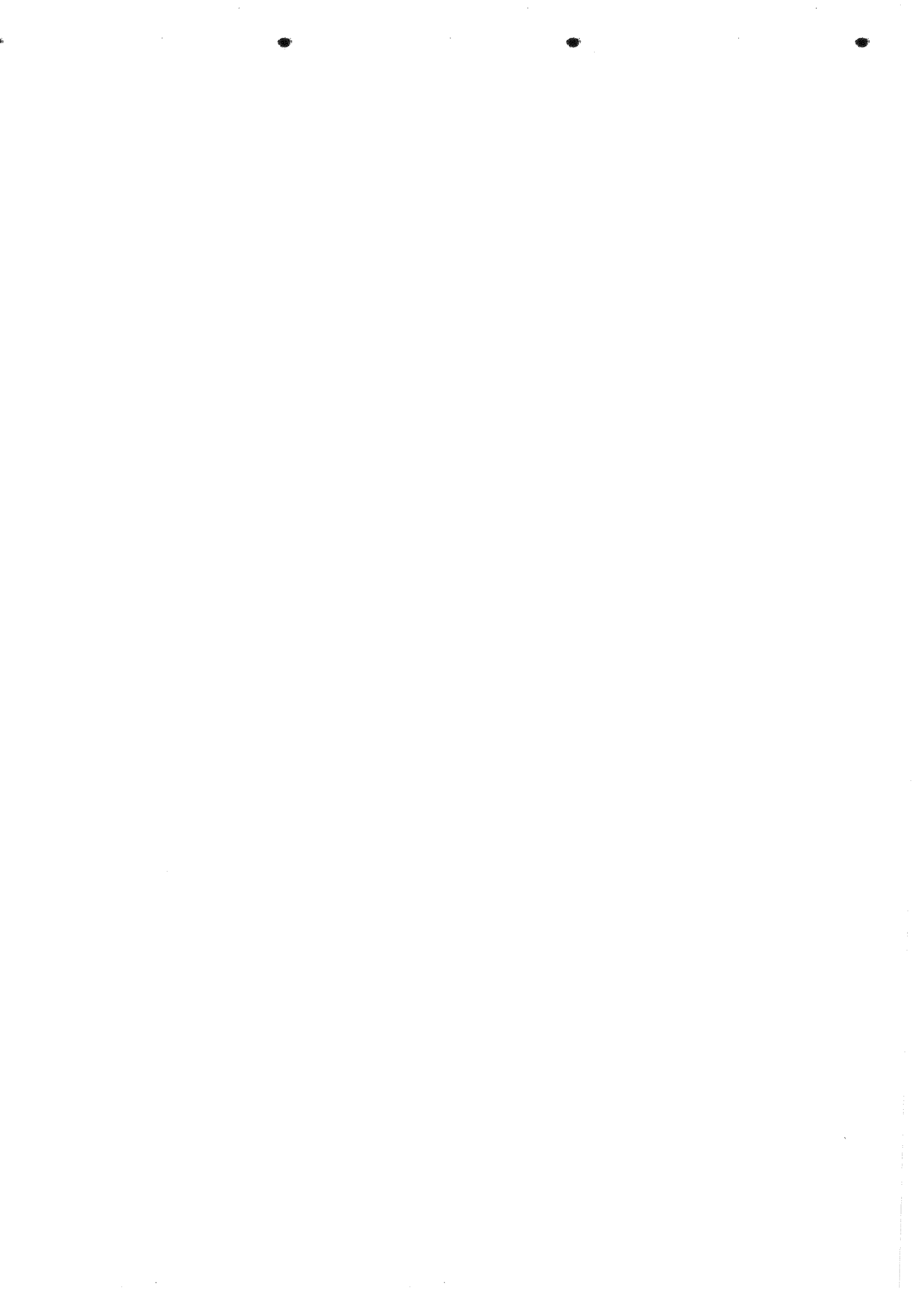
Erin Murphy represents Senate District 64, which includes portions of the Saint Paul community.

[Learn more about Sen. Murphy.](#)

[Read more news from Sen. Murphy.](#)



EXHIBIT L



Walz speaks on "deeply concerning" criminal case against senator

By KAALTV

April 25, 2024 - 3:19 PM

(ABC 6 News) – Gov. Tim Walz, visiting sites in Austin Thursday, called the state senator Nicole Mitchell's criminal case "a troubling situation."

RELATED: Minnesota senator wanted late father's ashes when she broke into stepmother's home, charges say – ABC 6 News – kaaltv.com

Mitchell, a member of the Democratic party who serves the Woodbury area, was arrested in another woman's home in Detroit Lakes early Monday, April 25.

Walz said there are plenty of questions surrounding the situation that need to be answered—but he believes that elected officials should be held to a high standard.

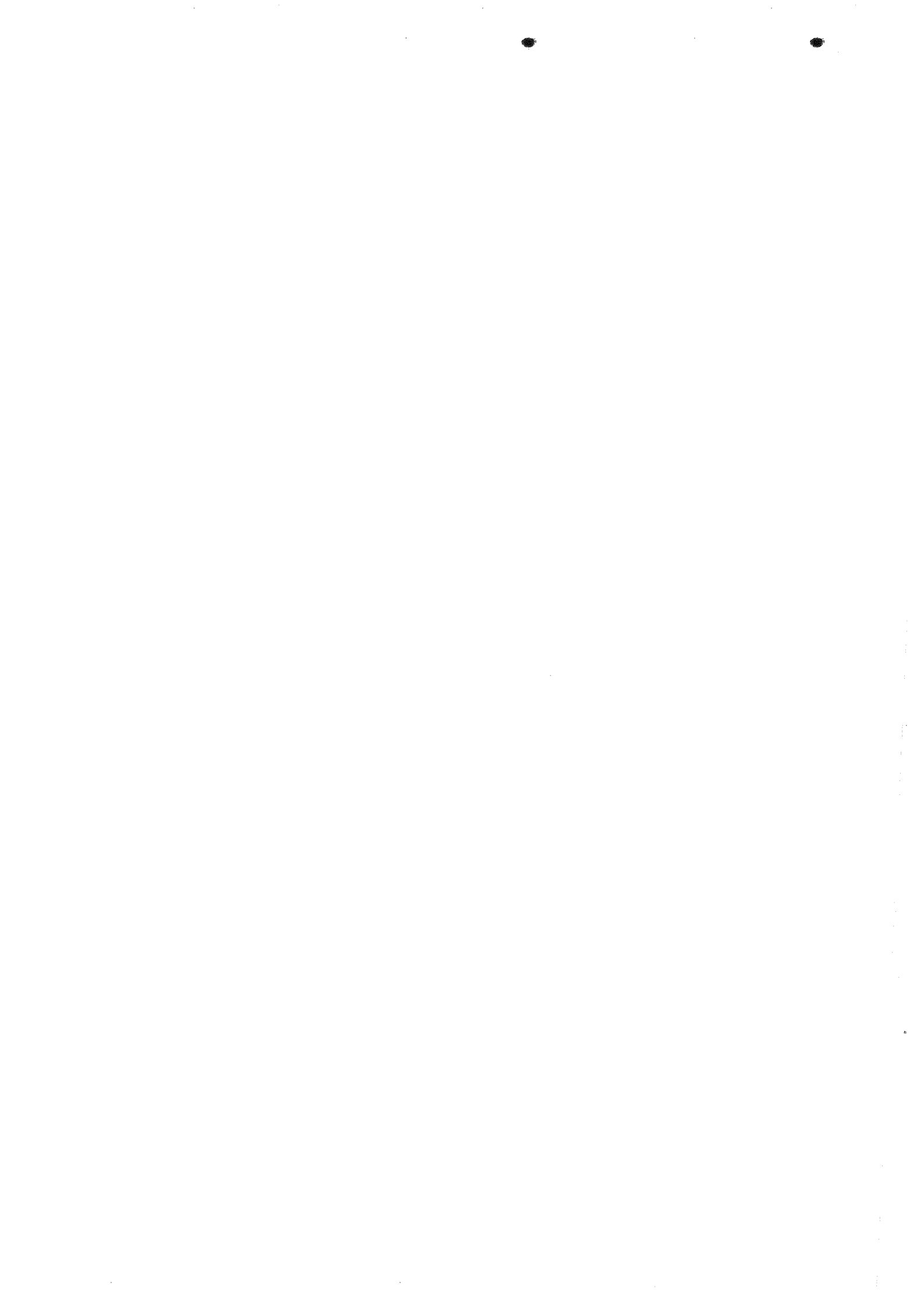
"I think it is deeply concerning," Walz said. "It's a family tragedy, but there was an individual involved in this that had her home violated and we will see how all that information comes out."

Members of Minnesota's Republican party filed an ethics complaint against Mitchell Wednesday.

RELATED: Republican senators file ethics complaint against Sen. Mitchell after burglary arrest – ABC 6 News – kaaltv.com



EXHIBIT M





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DFL Party chair says if he was Sen. Mitchell, he would 'probably consider resigning'

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Tom Hauser KSTP
Updated: April 26, 2024 - 5:47 PM
Published: April 26, 2024 - 5:00 PM

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DFL Party chair says if he was Sen. Mitchell, he would 'probably consider resigning'

Minnesota DFL Party Chairman Ken Martin says Sen. Nicole Mitchell (DFL-Woodbury) has the right to due process and is not calling for her resignation after she was **arrested and charged with felony burglary this week**. However, he calls the allegations against her "disturbing."

While stopping short of calling for her to resign, Martin said, "If I was in her shoes, I would probably consider resigning, of course, to focus on the legal challenges ahead and my family, but I'm not in her shoes and only Senator Mitchell can make that decision for herself."

RELATED: Sen. Nicole Mitchell: 'I do not intend to resign' over burglary charge



DFL Party chair says if he was Sen. Mitchell, he would 'probably consider resigning' - KSTP.com 5 Eyewitness News

Martin and Minnesota Republican Party Chair David Hann appeared for a joint interview Friday afternoon that will be broadcast Sunday morning on "At Issue." Hann did call for Mitchell to resign while questioning whether she should be allowed to vote in the Senate while ethics and legal issues play out.

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The DFL Senate leadership announced an ethics hearing will be held on May 7 to learn more about the burglary charge in Becker County at her stepmother's home.

"Can a member serve and be a deciding vote on all kinds of consequential legislation with these kinds of questions hanging over her head?" Hann asked on Friday. "The problem, I think, is really elevated because it's a one-vote margin for the majority, and she is the deciding vote on every piece of legislation that will get passed. So I think the Senate has to make the decision whether she is qualified to serve as senator before they continue to pass bills and enact law."

Martin says he understands Mitchell has a cloud hanging over her, but says her constituents in the Woodbury area have a right to representation as long as she's in office.

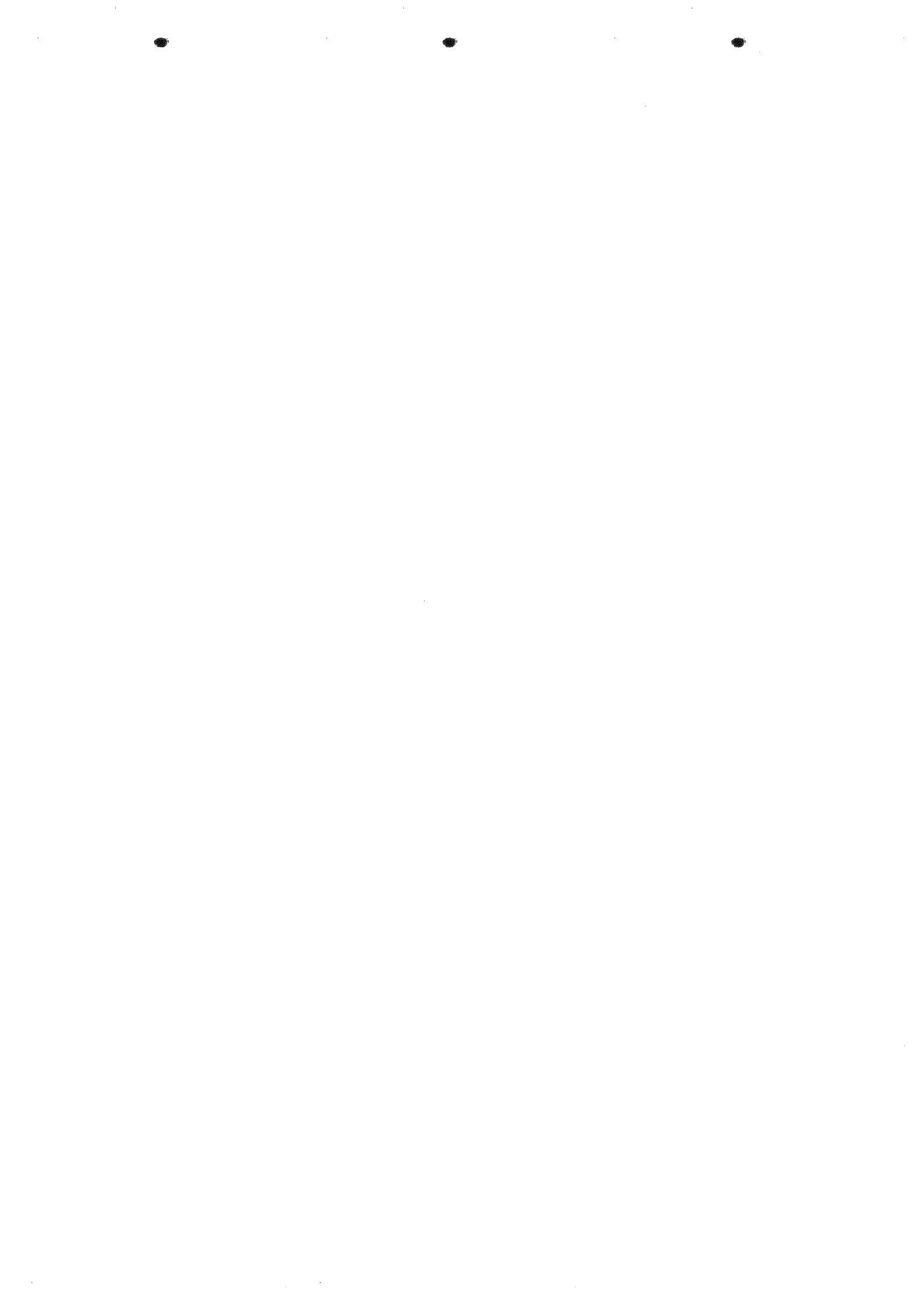
"I agree with David to a large extent, but the reality is she has not been convicted at this point. She still is a duly elected member of the Senate," Martin said.

You can see the entire interview with Martin and Hann on "At Issue with Tom Hauser" Sunday morning at 10 on KSTP-TV.

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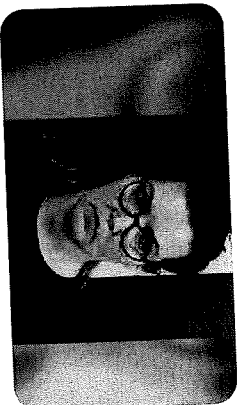


Senator Nicole Mitchell



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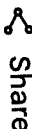
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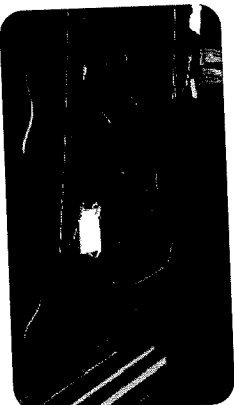
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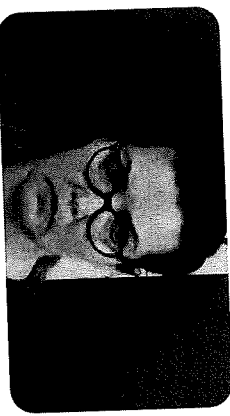
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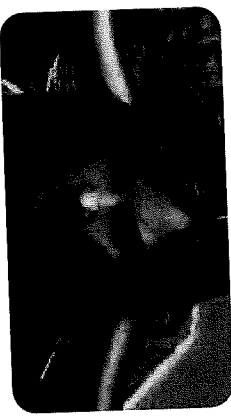
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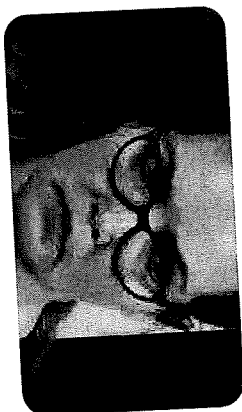
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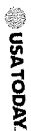
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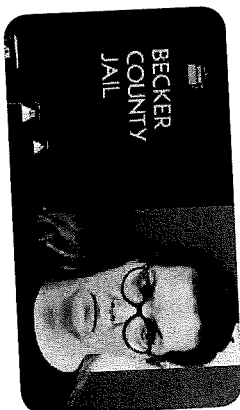
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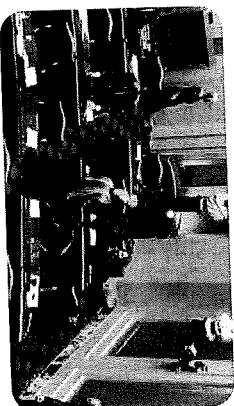
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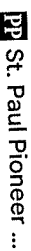
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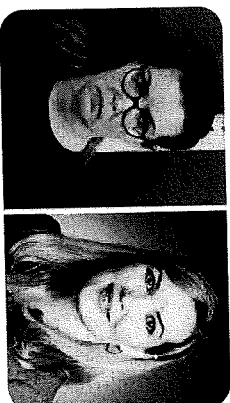
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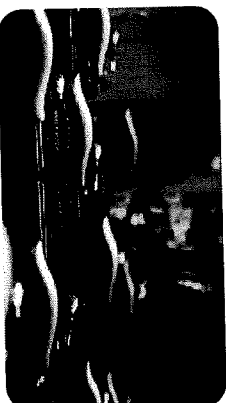


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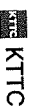


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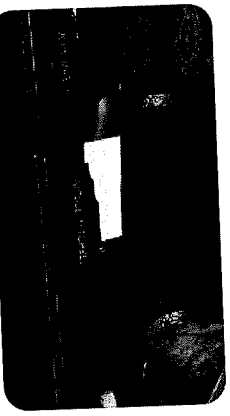
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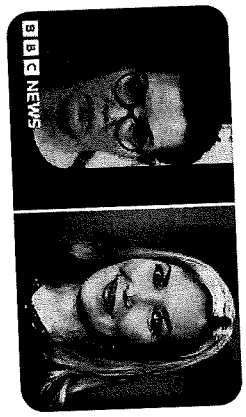
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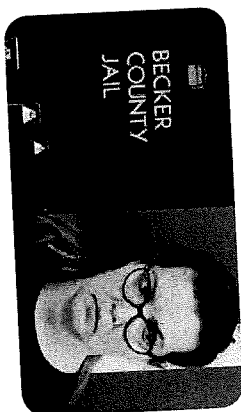
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Minnesota
State Sen....



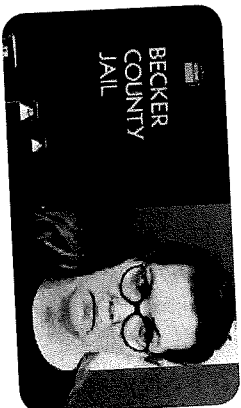
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Mitchell
arrest: What...



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USA TODAY
Nicole
Mitchell:
Minnesota...



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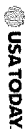


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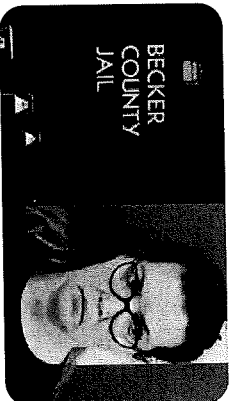
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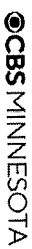
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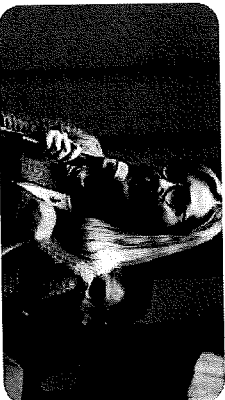
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Mitchell's...



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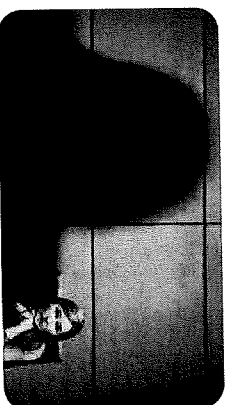
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Nicole...



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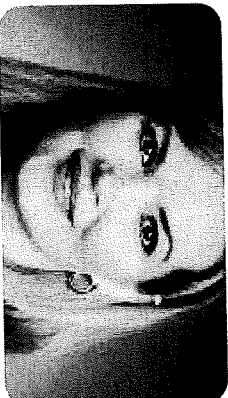
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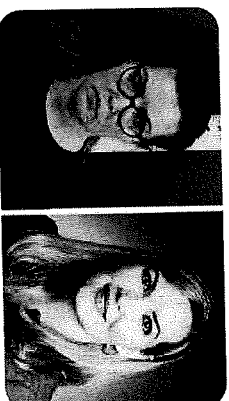
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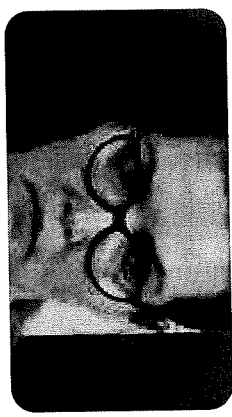
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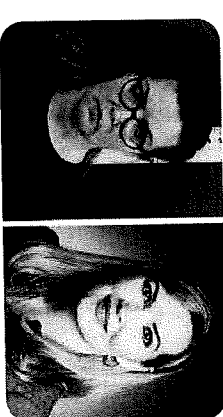
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Nicole
Mitchell...



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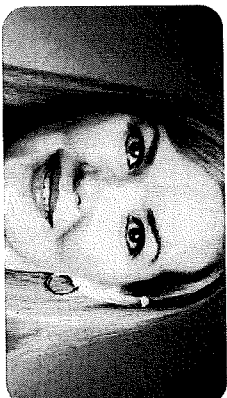
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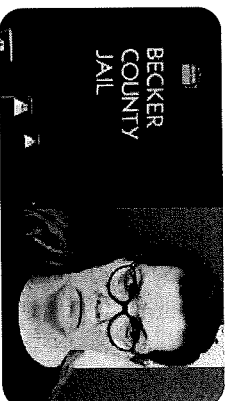
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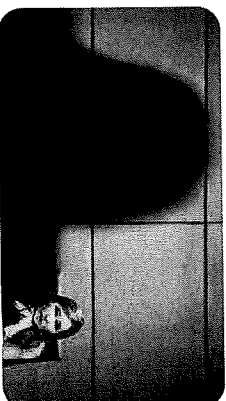
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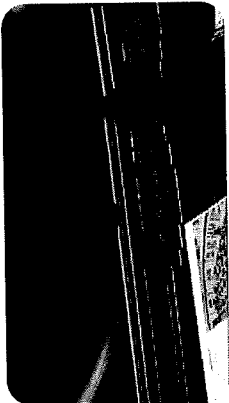
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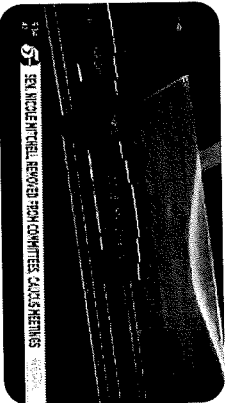
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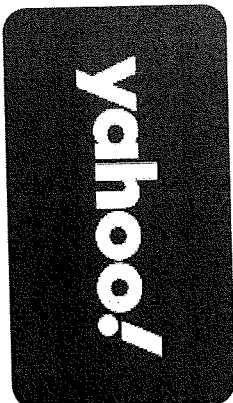
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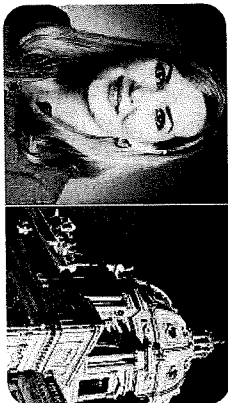
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Daily Mail

Democratic Minnesota Senator and...

Apr 23



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
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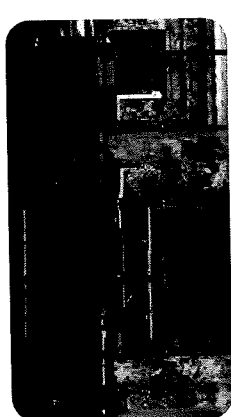
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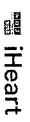




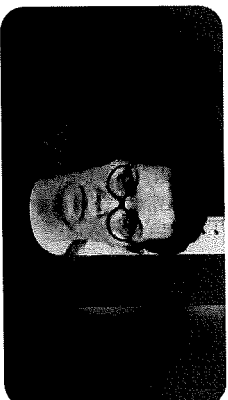
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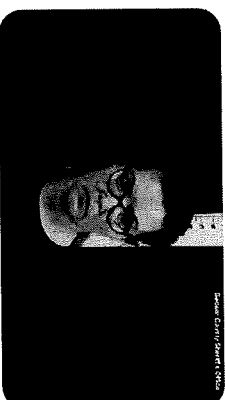
Minnesota
 Senator
 Nicole...



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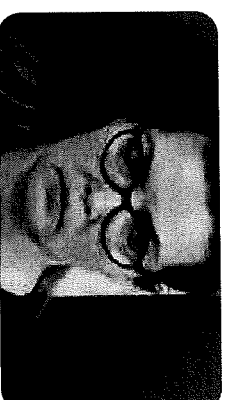
Lawmaker
 charged with
 'breaking int...



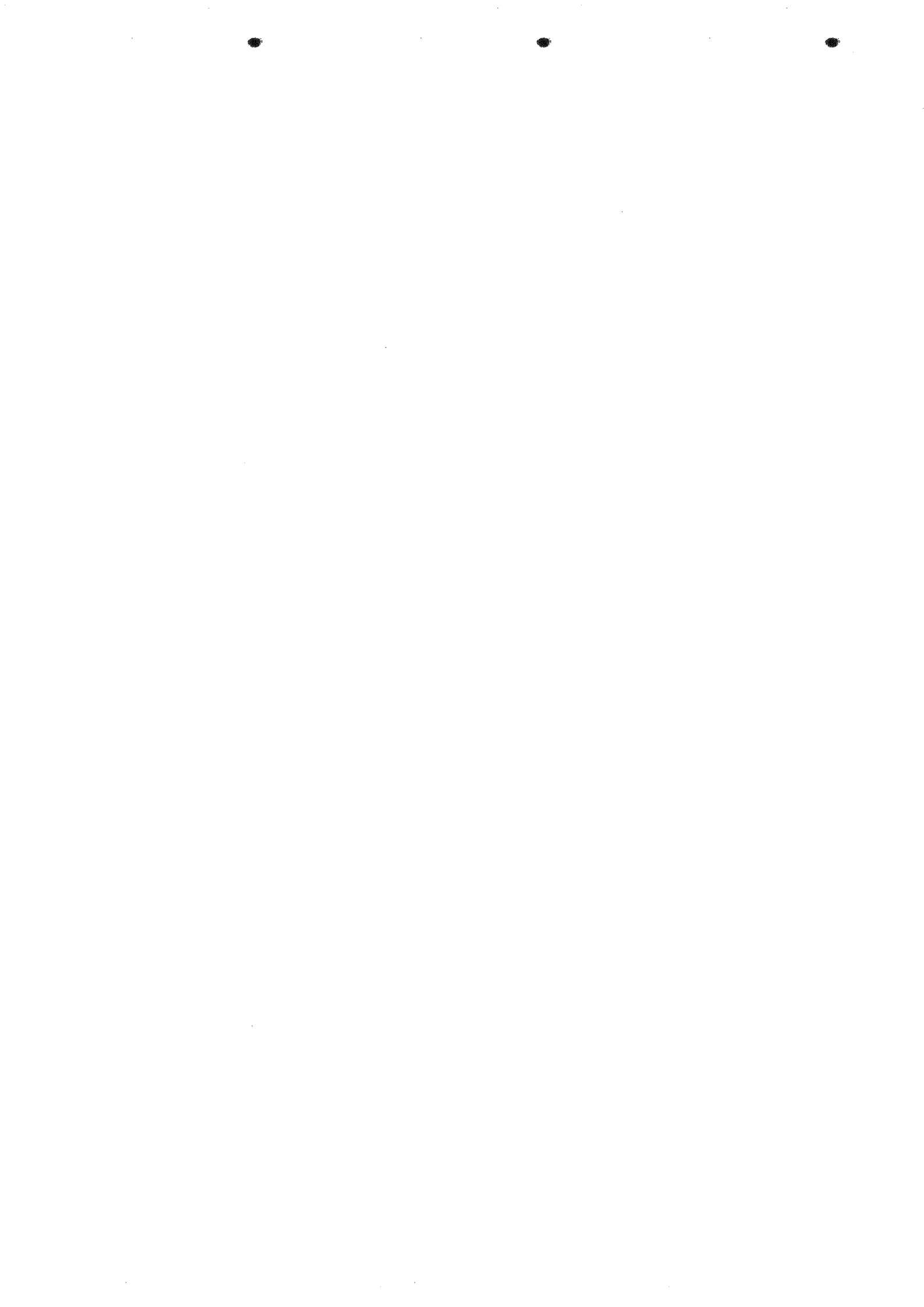
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Bring Me The News

Sen. Nicole
 Mitchell
 relieved of...



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Nicole Mitchell: Minnesota state senator denies theft after burglary arrest

24 April 2024

By Ana Faguy, BBC News, Washington

Becker County Sheriff's Office

Nicole Mitchell in her police booking photo (left) and in her Facebook profile photo

A Minnesota state senator has denied stealing after she was charged with first-degree burglary of her stepmother's home.

Nicole Mitchell was arrested in the early hours of Monday at a property in the city of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

The Democrat said on Facebook she was retrieving some of her late father's belongings.

Ms Mitchell, 49, was allegedly wearing black clothing and a black hat when officers detained her.

Officers also found she had a torch with a black sock over it, according to the criminal complaint.

The stepmother called police to report a break-in and when officers arrived the suspect ran into the basement, where she had entered the property via a window, it is alleged.



Nicole Mitchell

Nicole Mitchell is a former local TV meteorologist and Air Force veteran

"I know I did something bad," Ms Mitchell, a former local TV meteorologist and Air Force veteran, told police, according to the complaint.

She said her stepmother had cut off contact with her after her father's death last year and she wanted to get some of his belongings.

In the complaint, officers noted Ms Mitchell was trying to get her father's ashes and "other items of sentimental value".

She also allegedly had in her bag a laptop that had her stepmother's name on it. Ms Mitchell told police her stepmother had given her the computer, but the stepmother denied this, according to the complaint.

In a post on Facebook on Tuesday, Ms Mitchell denied stealing anything and said "grave concern" about a loved one with Alzheimer's had led her to enter the home.

"Unfortunately, I startled this close relative, exacerbating paranoia, and I was accused of stealing, which I absolutely deny," she wrote.

Some lawmakers in the state legislature - which Democrats control by a one-seat margin - are calling on her to step down.

State Senate minority leader Mark Johnson, a Republican, said despite the "difficult situation" for Ms Mitchell's family she should resign "immediately".

State Senate majority leader Erin Murphy, a Democrat, called the allegations "upsetting", but stopped short of calling for her resignation.

If convicted, Ms Mitchell could face a \$35,000 fine (£28,000), 20 years in



prison or both.

She appeared in court on Tuesday and is next due in court on 10 June.

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Minnesota sports betting bill runs afoul of partisan rancor over state senator's burglary arrest

A bill to legalize sports betting in Minnesota is in serious trouble, running afoul of the partisan rancor over the arrest of a state senator on a felony burglary charge

May 2, 2024



Minnesota state senator

announced her resignation of



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/search/?query=Nicole+mitchell>



arrested on suspicion of burglary

Police say a Minnesota state senator and former broadcast meteorologist has been arrested in the northwestern city of Detroit Lakes

April 22, 2024

Minnesota senator wanted late father's ashes when she broke into stepmother's home, charges say

Criminal charges say that a Minnesota state senator told police she broke into her stepmother's home because her stepmother refused to give her items of sentimental value from her late father, including his ashes

April 23, 2024





Attempt to expedite ethics probe of Minnesota state senator charged with burglary fails on tie vote

A Republican attempt to expedite an ethics investigation of a Democratic Minnesota state senator who's facing a felony burglary charge has failed on a tie vote

April 24, 2024



AT LONG LAST MURPHY WEDS

Murphy and model Nicole Mitchell, mother of his two youngest children, opted for a black-tie soiree at the Plaza Hotel, mere blocks from the ...

March 18, 1993



HOLLIFIELD'S FREE

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