



**\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\***

## **BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT**



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790 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake MN, 55309

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**Incident Number: 18005434**

**Date/Time: 9/6/2018**

### **Suspect Charged with Felony Assault**

On June 23, 2018, Big Lake Police Officers were dispatched to a residence in Big Lake to handle a reported assault. On their arrival, Officers interviewed the victim about what had occurred. Officers observed that the victim had a broken tooth, bleeding from his mouth, and a swollen face. After an initial account of what occurred was obtained by officers, the case was assigned to Investigator Rich Berg for investigation.

Through interviews conducted by Investigator Berg with all that were present, the following is an account of what was determined to have taken place. The victim and friends were in a taxi, leaving an establishment in Big Lake and heading to a residence in Big Lake. Two unknown males entered the same taxi. During the ride, the victim and suspect became involved in a verbal argument over who would be dropped off first, and who would pay the fair. The victim and friends instructed the taxi driver to stop. Once the cab was stopped, the two males exited the taxi along with the victim. The suspect, identified as Erik Johnson (Age 23 – Otsego), punched the victim in the face knocking him to the ground. Once on the ground, Johnson punched the victim 6-8 more times in the face. Johnson and the other male then left the scene. The victim was treated at a local hospital for fractures to bones in his face.

Erik Johnson was charged by criminal complaint with; 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Assault – Substantial Bodily Harm (felony), and 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Assault (misdemeanor).