



Wisconsin: Race Hoax? Prosecutors Say There Is No Evidence that White Men Lit Biracial Teen on Fire

Madison, Wisconsin: Althea Bernstein, 18, told police she was attacked by four white men: she claims she was driving through a protest around 1 a.m. on June 24, and was stopped at a red light when someone yelled a racial slur, and then one of the men sprayed her with lighter fluid through her open window and threw a flaming lighter at her, setting her neck and face on fire. Detectives were unable to find any surveillance video that shows the alleged attack taking place, but they did find footage indicating the woman was in Middleton, a suburb about 15 minutes from downtown Madison, just before 1 a.m. GPS data from her phone corroborates that as her location.

Traffic and surveillance camera footage shows Bernstein's vehicle stopped only once and that no one was around the car. The footage also shows that her window was closed. It wasn't until hours later that she sought medical treatment. There are no plans to file charges against Bernstein. She made an appearance on Good Morning America and received a phone call from Meghan Markle, wife of Prince Harry, but the media is silent now that the case has been refuted.

There's not enough evidence to prove that a group of white men set a young biracial woman on fire during a chaotic night of

protests in Wisconsin's capital city this summer, federal prosecutors said Friday.

Detectives were unable to find any surveillance video that shows the alleged attack taking place, but they did find footage indicating the woman wasn't in the city at the time she says she was attacked, according to investigative reports.

Althea Bernstein, 18, told police she was attacked by four white men while driving through a protest in downtown Madison around 1 a.m. on June 24. Bernstein said she was stopped at a red light when she heard someone yell a racial slur and one of the men sprayed her with lighter fluid through her open window and threw a flaming lighter at her, setting her neck and face on fire.

She drove away, put out the flames, and was treated for burns at a hospital, she said.

A team of federal, state and local investigators probed the allegations as a possible hate crime. On Friday, the U.S. attorney's office in Madison issued a statement saying the investigation was closed without charges filed.

The statement said investigators conducted extensive interviews as well as an exhaustive review of traffic and surveillance cameras as well as digital and forensic evidence, and couldn't establish that the attack occurred.

Madison Acting Police Chief Vic Wahl issued his own statement, saying detectives were unable to "locate evidence consistent with what was reported."

Bernstein's family issued a three-sentence statement through the Madison Police Department saying they appreciate investigators' work.

"Althea Bernstein and her family appreciate the detailed investigative efforts by all involved this case," the

statement said. "Althea's injuries are healing and the support of our community has been invaluable in that regard. We continue to maintain our family privacy and will not be granting interviews at this time."

The alleged assault came during a night of violence that included the toppling of two statues outside the Capitol and an attack on a state senator. A group of up to 300 people protested the arrest of a Black man after he shouted at restaurant customers through a megaphone while carrying a baseball bat.

According to investigative documents, Bernstein told the responding officer she is Hispanic and Black.

Someone also threw a Molotov cocktail into a government building and attempted to break into the Capitol, only to be repelled by pepper spray from police stationed inside. The violence prompted Gov. Tony Evers to activate the National Guard to protect state properties.

Madison police on Friday released more than 150 pages of reports detailing the investigation. Traffic and surveillance camera footage shows Bernstein's vehicle stopped only once and that no one was around the car. The footage also shows that her window was closed throughout and that she was traveling in the right lane, not the left as she told investigators.

None of the cameras picked up a group of four white men that matched Bernstein's descriptions, the reports said.

But footage does show her in Middleton, a suburb about 15 minutes from downtown Madison, just before 1 a.m. GPS data from her phone corroborates that as her location, the reports said.

An arson dog found no trace of a lighter or other incendiary device in her car and investigators found the car wasn't damaged. Tests did reveal a substance consistent with lighter

fluid on her shirt, however, and her medical records indicate she was treated for burns hours after the attack allegedly happened.

Read full article here...



New England Journal of Medicine Publishes Paper Calling for Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine

A paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine has called for mandating a coronavirus vaccine, and outlined strategies for how Americans could be forced to take it. The paper states that the vaccine should be voluntary at first, and then, if not enough people are willing to take it, “relatively substantial” penalties should be put into place for those who refuse it. The paper suggests that “employment suspension or stay-at-home orders,” should be issued, but that fines should be discouraged because they can be legally challenged. The paper also recommends that government health authorities should avoid making public their close relationship with vaccine manufacturers, to quell public mistrust.

A paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine has called for mandating a coronavirus vaccine, and outlined strategies for how Americans could be FORCED to take it.

The paper warns that an immediate mandate for the vaccine would spark too much resistance and backlash, so the writers suggest that at first it should be voluntary.

However, it suggests that if not enough people are willing to get the vaccine within the first few weeks of its availability, it should be transformed into an obligation, with penalties put into place for refusal.

The paper outlines "six trigger criteria" that need to be met before the vaccine is made mandatory, and that it should be rolled out to specific demographics of the population first.

"Only recommended groups should be considered for a vaccination mandate," initially, according to the paper, which cites "high risk groups" as the first set of people.

"[T]he elderly, health professionals working in high-risk situations or working with high-risk patients...persons with certain underlying medical conditions," as well as those in "high-density settings such as prisons and dormitories" should be mandated to get the jab, the paper says.

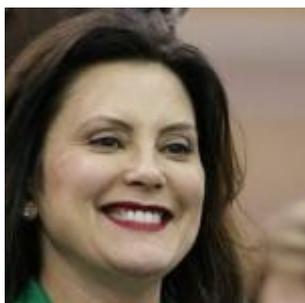
It also suggests that active-duty military service members should be among the first that are forced into the vaccination.

The paper proclaims that "noncompliance should incur a penalty" and notes that it should be a "relatively substantial" one.

It suggests that "employment suspension or stay-at-home orders," should be issued, but that fines should be discouraged because they can be legally challenged, and "may stoke distrust without improving uptake."

The paper also suggests that government health authorities should avoid making public their close relationship with vaccine manufacturers, to quell public mistrust.

[Read full article here...](#)



Michigan Supreme Court Strikes Down Democrat Governor Whitmer's Emergency Powers

In a landmark ruling that will affect future cases, the Michigan Supreme Court decided that Governor Gretchen Whitmer violated her constitutional authority by continuing to issue orders to combat COVID-19 without the approval of elected state lawmakers. The order ends Whitmer's ability to use emergency powers without legislative approval. The Whitmer administration could retain some authority through the health department and other agencies. But those orders could be reviewed to determine whether they overstep the standards outlined in the laws giving the departments that authority.

In a landmark ruling with far-reaching implications, the Michigan Supreme Court decided Friday that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer violated her constitutional authority by continuing to issue orders to combat COVID-19 without the approval of state

lawmakers.

The state's high court ruled 4-3 that a state law allowing the governor to declare emergencies and keep them in place without legislative input – the 1945 Emergency Powers of the Governor Act – is unconstitutional.

The court was unanimous in ruling that a separate law – the 1976 Emergency Management Act – did not give Whitmer the power, after April 30, to issue or renew any executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic after 28 days without Legislative approval.

The ruling, which was requested by a federal judge earlier this year, serves as advice to the federal court and indicates how the court would rule on a suit challenging Whitmer's emergency powers.

The order essentially brings an end to Whitmer's ability to use emergency powers without legislative approval, but there are differing takes as to when the practical effect of the ruling would be felt.

Whitmer argued her powers will remain in place for at least 21 days, an apparent reference to a 21-day period in which the governor can request a rehearing from the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy, which brought the suit in federal court that led to Friday's ruling, argued the decision ends Whitmer's executive orders immediately, or, at the very least, as soon as a federal judge uses the ruling to decide the center's case.

"It's a matter of when we can get a court to implement it," said Patrick Wright, vice president for legal affairs at the Mackinac Center.

"Anybody that is in the courts right now will point to this

ruling and should win," said Wright, referencing other pending lawsuits against Whitmer.

The majority opinion of the state's high court made clear on Friday the ruling would encourage Whitmer and lawmakers to collaborate on any emergency measures to combat COVID-19.

"Our decision leaves open many avenues for the governor and Legislature to work together to address this challenge, and we hope that this will take place," Justice Stephen Markman wrote in the majority opinion.

Whitmer said Friday she "vehemently" disagreed with the court's ruling, which she said made Michigan an "outlier" among the majority of states that have emergency orders in place.

The governor said that even after the Supreme Court ruling takes effect, her directives will remain in place through "alternative sources of authority."

The ruling appears to leave intact orders issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, which have addressed some of the same subject matter contained in Whitmer's executive orders.

Friday's Supreme Court ruling will ensure, Wright said, that "as our state continues to face the challenges that come with COVID-19, all of the people of Michigan will have a voice in the decisions that will impact our state in the years to come."

However, he conceded the Whitmer administration could retain some authority through other agencies.

"If there are other laws or administrative regulation the governor can use – be they the Department of Health and Human Services or another agency – those are still in place," Wright said. But he added those orders could be reviewed to determine

whether they overstep the standards outlined in the laws giving the departments that authority.

Friday's Supreme Court ruling came after months of litigation over Whitmer's executive orders, which have shuttered businesses, required residents to wear masks and, for a period, demanded they avoid nonessential trips outside their homes to stem the spread of COVID-19.

The legal battles have involved a congressman, gyms, bowling alleys, an elderly barber who refused to close his shop in Owosso and the Legislature, which filed its own lawsuit nearly five months ago.

Friday's ruling was spurred by a suit filed by a trio of Michigan medical centers against Whitmer's order banning nonessential procedures. The ruling came 206 days after the governor first declared a state of emergency in Michigan because of the virus.

Read full article here...