

MEDIA RELEASE

Woman Arrested for Bias Crime After Striking Child at Retail Store

May 21, 2021

On Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 11:35 a.m., patrol deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a disturbance at a retail store in the 3400 block of SW Knowlton Road in Cedar Hills, which is part of the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District (ESPD). The first deputy arrived in less than one minute.

Witnesses reported an adult female shoved a nine-year-old child at the location, forcing him to the ground and into the side of a parked vehicle - causing abrasions to his knees. Fortunately, he was not seriously injured. Witnesses also said the woman uprooted plants on the store's exterior.

Deputies contacted the woman and identified her as 31-year-old Lacy E. Lenahan. Ms. Lenahan told deputies she specifically shoved the child because of his race, and when she was in the store, she intentionally threw an item at someone because of their race. Throughout her conversation with investigators, she continued to use hateful and derogatory language when describing people of this race.

Ms. Lenahan was arrested and booked into the Washington County Jail on the following charges:

- Bias Crime in the second degree
- Harassment
- Criminal Mischief in the second degree

In Oregon, bias crimes are committed based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. A bias incident is any hostile expression that may be motivated by those same factors.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Washington County District Attorney's Office are strongly committed to investigating and prosecuting bias crimes in our community. Initial reports should be made to law enforcement by calling 503-629-0111.

Bias crimes and incidents can also be reported to the Oregon Department of Justice at 1-844-924-BIAS (1-844-924-2427) or online at <https://justice.oregon.gov/CrimeReporting/BiasCrime>.



SHERIFF
WASHINGTON COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613

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