

Statement of Drew J. DeVinney,
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February 6, 2023

Today, we are announcing the filing of a federal civil rights lawsuit against Kenosha Police Officer Shawn Guetschow, the City of Kenosha, and the Kenosha Unified School District, in the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Our clients are filing this lawsuit to hold the defendants accountable for the use of excessive force against a twelve-year-old girl. On March 4, 2022, Officer Guetschow intervened to break up an altercation between two six grade students in the Lincoln Middle School cafeteria. Video of the incident shows Officer Guetschow losing his temper, pulling Jane Doe to the floor, smashing her head into the hard tile surface, getting on top of her and choking her with his knee under the full weight of his adult body. Jane Doe struggled to breath as Officer Guetschow kept his knee against the back of her neck.

Jane Doe has treated for nearly a year for the physical and emotional injuries that she sustained. Although she is not healed from her trauma, she is ready to stand up for herself. Filing this lawsuit and seeking accountability from an unjust system is a sincere act of bravery on the part of this remarkable young woman.

Incidents like this cause needless suffering, not only to the victims of police brutality, but to the family, friends, and community. Trust erodes with each incident that fails to bring about change or accountability. We applaud Jane Doe and her father, Jerrel Perez, for their courage to seek justice today.
