

# BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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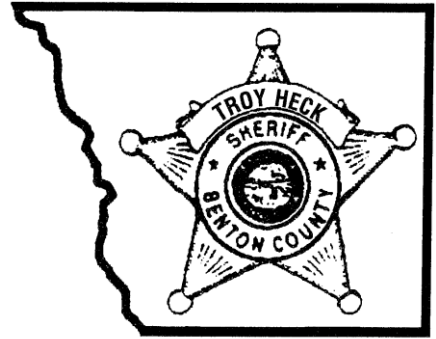
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**Troy Heck, Sheriff**  
**Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy**

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE: 10-15-18**

### AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is investigating the alleged assault of Shane Mekeland, a candidate running for a seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives. On 10-13-18 Shane Mekeland called the Benton County Sheriff's Office to report that he was physically assaulted while at a business in Benton County. Mekeland reported that he was at a bar and restaurant in St. George Township on 10-12-18 between about 9:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Mekeland reported that he was talking about politics with another adult male in this establishment. Mekeland reported that he and this man were having an amiable conversation, until it ended abruptly when the man apparently took offense to a statement Mekeland made concerning the "middle class." Mekeland stated that the man punched him in the face without warning. Mekeland reported receiving personal injuries as a result of this assault. The suspect in this case was identified and has been interviewed. The investigation into this matter is still on going. Because the suspect has not been arrested or charged with a crime, his name is not available to be released at this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Troy Heck'.

Troy Heck  
Benton County Sheriff