

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Byrd, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Media Contact – David Byrd

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To Provide Info Call 815-748-8400

To Report a Crime/Request Emergency Police Response Call 9-1-1

Aggravated Kidnapping/Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault

On July 31, 2023, DeKalb Police Department officers responded to Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital regarding a possible criminal sexual assault. DeKalb Police Department detectives learned that the victim communicated with the offender (Tyrus Bartholomew), through the “Tagged” online dating application. On or about July 30, 2023, at approximately 2:00 AM, Bartholomew arranged a date with the victim and picked her up from her residence in DeKalb. When the victim entered the vehicle, Bartholomew immediately brandished a firearm, drove her to another location, and sexually assaulted the victim. Bartholomew threatened to kill the victim if she contacted police, and the victim was released.

The DeKalb Detective Division were able to ascertain Bartholomew’s license plate information and after a review of the Automated License Plate Reader system, it was determined that Bartholomew’s vehicle was traveling in the area of Rockford, Illinois. The DeKalb Police Department were able to locate Bartholomew’s vehicle in Rockford, Illinois, and subsequently place him under arrest without incident.

Special thanks to the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office, Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office, Rockford Police Department, and the Arlington, Texas Police Department who all assisted in the apprehension. Additional charges are possible against Bartholomew.

Offender: Tyrus J. Bartholomew M/B/32 YOA Arlington, TX

Charges: 1) Aggravated Kidnapping-Felony Class X
2) Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault- Felony Class X (two counts)

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****All persons are presumed innocent in a court of law until proven guilty****

If you witnessed this incident or have any information that can help with this investigation, please contact the DeKalb Police Department.