

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff's Squad Struck by Drunk Driver in Beach Park

On March 14, 2020, at approximately 2:30AM, a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on Sheridan Road south of Beach Road in Beach Park. The deputy was in a marked squad car and the emergency lights on the squad were illuminated. The deputy subsequently arrested the driver for driving under the influence of alcohol.

A backup deputy arrived on the scene and parked his fully marked squad car, with the emergency lights active, behind the other deputy. While the deputies were tending to the initial DUI scene, a northbound 2000 GMC sideswiped the backup deputy's squad car. The driver of the GMC fled from the scene, but the deputy who had his squad struck was able to catch up to the GMC. The driver initially refused to pull over for the deputy and continued driving for several blocks before stopping.

The driver of the GMC, Oronday Gardner, 33, of the 1400 block of Jackson Street, North Chicago, was determined to be driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and transported to the Lake County Jail. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges:

- Aggravated DUI (felony charge)
- Aggravated Fleeing/Attempting to Elude (felony charge)
- DUI – Alcohol
- Failing to Yield to an Emergency Vehicle (Scott's Law)
- Leaving the Scene of an Accident
- Driving While License Revoked
- Operating an Uninsured Vehicle

Gardner remains held in the Lake County Jail on \$50,000.00 bail. He is next due in court on March 17, 2020 at 1:30PM in courtroom T110.

Sheriff John Idleburg said, “Just two weeks ago a deputy was struck head-on by someone driving under the influence. Earlier this year, we had another squad struck by a drunk driver. Now we have this. We investigate serious crashes year after year where alcohol or drugs were a factor. There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel intoxicated. Drive sober – every time.”

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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