

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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Date: March 21, 2020



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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff's Special Investigations Group and ATF Arrest Convicted Felon, Gang Member, for Drugs, Weapons Offenses

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Chicago Field Division concluded an undercover operation resulting in the arrest of a convicted felon, and documented street gang member, who sold cocaine and purchased firearms from undercover detectives/agents.

In March during the undercover investigation, Malcolm J. Brown, 31, of the 2700 block of West Lexington Avenue, Chicago, had numerous discussions with detectives about selling cocaine and buying firearms. Brown was suspected of dealing drugs in numerous counties in northern Illinois.

Brown sold undercover detectives over 60 grams of cocaine at a location in Lake County. On another occasion, he met undercover detectives at a location in Will County, where he sold over 65 grams of cocaine. Finally, on March 19, 2020, he sold over 75 grams of cocaine and purchased three firearms from an undercover ATF agent, again in Will County. He was arrested at that time and was found to be in possession of an additional nearly 140 grams of cocaine.

As Brown committed crimes in more than one county, the Illinois Attorney General's Office agreed to lead the prosecution. The Illinois Attorney General's Office approved the following charges:

Three Counts of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute (Class X Felonies)
Six counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon (Class 2 Felonies)
Unlawful Possession of a Machine Gun by a Felon (Class X Felony)

Additionally, as he was on parole, the Illinois Department of Corrections issued a parole violation warrant for Brown.

Following an initial court hearing in Will County, Brown's bond was set at \$1,000,000.00. He is next due in Will County Court on April 2, 2020. The Will County State's Attorney's Office will be co-prosecuting the case with the Attorney General's Office.

Sheriff John Idleburg said, "This is what our Special Investigations Group is all about, collaborating with other local, regional, and federal law-enforcement to keep drugs off our streets and firearms out of the hands of dangerous felons. Kudos to all of our first-responders who continue to work, keeping the community safe amid the Coronavirus pandemic."

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

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