

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputies Utilize De-Escalation to Take Violent, Non-Compliant Offender into Custody

On May 27, 2021, at approximately 6:40 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of Route 45 and Gages Lake Road, Warren Township, for multiple 911 calls. The 911 callers reported a woman had just been dragged and struck by a vehicle. The driver then fled southbound from the scene in the vehicle.

Sheriff's deputies learned a short time later the driver returned, threatened to shoot the victim, and ordered the victim to get back in the vehicle. The victim crawled back toward the vehicle and got inside. The driver of the vehicle then fled southbound with the victim inside the car.

Lake County Sheriff's Telecommunicators issued a regional alert to other law-enforcement to be on the lookout for the offending vehicle. A short time later, the vehicle was spotted in the area of Route 45 and Brae Loch Road, Grayslake, by a Grayslake Police Officer. Grayslake PD alerted sheriff's deputies of the offending vehicle location and sheriff's deputies quickly responded.

Due to the high-risk nature of the offenses, sheriff's deputies conducted a 'high-risk traffic stop.' Sheriff's deputies began communicating with the driver/offender and instructed her to exit her vehicle with her hands raised. The driver, Katrice Brown, 35, of the 1400 block of West Park Avenue, Libertyville, exited her vehicle and was immediately non-compliant. She was not following the instructions of sheriff's deputies and she began yelling, "shoot me" and "kill me" to the sheriff's deputies.

The sheriff's deputies on the scene recently attended in-house 'high risk vehicle stop' and 'de-escalation' training. They were able to communicate with Brown for several minutes and worked together to calm her. After several minutes of de-escalation techniques, Brown was taken into custody without force being used. The victim, a 28-year-old woman of Libertyville, was still in the vehicle. Sheriff's deputies summoned an ambulance and she was transported to an area hospital with significant injuries from being struck by the vehicle and dragged. She is expected to recover.

Further investigation revealed the victim and Brown are in a dating relationship. The two got into an argument at a bar/restaurant establishment in the area of Route 45 and Gages Lake Road. The two left the establishment and went to their vehicle. As they were preparing to leave, the victim decided to exit the vehicle to get away from Brown. As the victim was exiting, Brown accelerated, and the victim was dragged from the passenger side of the vehicle. The victim was also struck by the vehicle after Brown dragged her.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the incident the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges for Brown:

Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon
Aggravated Assault with a Motor Vehicle
Two Counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery
DUI – Alcohol

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, “This incident again shows the true professionalism of all of our staff. From our Training Division who have made it a priority to focus training efforts on de-escalation before resorting to force – to our telecommunicators who were able to obtain critical information from the 911 callers and calmly disseminate that to the sheriff's deputies – to our sheriff's deputies who responded and utilized de-escalation techniques rather than force. This was an incident that could have ended much differently if it were not for our trained, dedicated, and professional staff who worked together to resolve this incident safely for everyone involved.”

Brown remains held in the Lake County Jail pending an initial court hearing. She is due in court this morning.

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

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