

# Lake County Sheriff's Office

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**John D. Idleburg**  
Sheriff

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Man Threatens Other Driver with Firearm, Crashes Car

On August 19, 2022, at approximately 10:20 p.m. Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a single-vehicle crash in the area of Delany Road north of Yorkhouse Road, unincorporated Waukegan. Sheriff's deputies arrived and found the vehicle, a Ford Mustang, down an embankment, engulfed in flames.

The driver of the vehicle, Joseph Ebler, 28, of the 11300 block of West Wadsworth Road, Beach Park, initially fled from the scene on foot. Sheriff's deputies located him nearby a short time later. Ebler was uncooperative with deputies, appeared impaired, and sustained minor injuries in the crash.

Further investigation revealed Ebler had just been involved in a traffic altercation with a 40-year-old man of Gurnee, in the area of Wadsworth Road and Delany Road in Wadsworth. During the altercation, Ebler brandished a pistol and threatened to shoot the victim, while the two were stopped at a stoplight. The victim fled in his vehicle southbound and Ebler followed him, pulled next to him, and pointed the firearm toward him. Ebler then lost control of his vehicle and crashed into the embankment.

As Ebler did not have the firearm on his person when sheriff's deputies were speaking to him, Sheriff's Canine Dax was requested to the scene. Canine Dax conducted an article search and located Ebler's firearm, a Glock 29, approximately 150 feet from his vehicle, in the area Ebler initially fled.

Ebler was subsequently charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated DUI, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Ebler remains held in the Lake County Jail pending an initial court hearing this morning.

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

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