



DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT
700 W. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115
815/748-8400 · cityofdekalb.com

For Immediate Release:

On Monday, November 13th, 2017 at approximately 12:30 p.m., the DeKalb Police Department responded to Wal-Mart, located in the 2300 block of Sycamore Road, regarding a person having been battered. Upon arriving at the scene, Officers spoke with the victim who relayed that while shopping, a male subject approached her and began making anti-Muslim comments directed at her. When the victim attempted to make a recording of his statements with her phone, the subject pulled her “niqab”, a head scarf and face covering garment, down causing her pain. After doing this, the suspect continued making anti-Muslim statements as he walked away. Although the suspect was not immediately located at the time of the initial report, Officers later located and interviewed the suspect identified as Michael E. Dickey. In partnership with the DeKalb County State’s Attorney’s Office, a thorough review of the investigation and evidence was conducted. As a result, the following charges were approved, Hate Crime (2 counts), Battery, and Disorderly Conduct. On November 15th, the offender was subsequently arrested and transported to the DeKalb County Jail to await a bond hearing.

DeKalb Police Chief Gene Lowery stated, “The DeKalb Police Department will not tolerate the criminal acts of individuals who victimize others due to their actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin. Our community is strengthened by its diversity, which is a characteristic we must embrace for the greater good of all people.”

Mohammed Labadi, President of the Islamic Center of DeKalb, stated, “We have great faith in the city of DeKalb and its local officials. We hope that this is an isolated incident and remain grateful for our wonderfully diverse community. On behalf of our Muslim community, we will continue to work hard for the betterment of all within our community, as we are all one people.”

Arrested: Dickey, Michael E., 69 years old, of the 200 Block of Augusta Ave., DeKalb, IL.

**Contact: Deputy Chief John Petragallo
815-748-8400**

The contents of this press release are based upon the best information available to the DeKalb Police Department. The statements regarding the conduct of any person identified above are allegations until affirmatively proven in Court. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty.