

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Byrd, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Media Contact – Chief Byrd

Issued: February 9, 2022

To Provide Info Call 815-748-8400

To Report a Crime/Request Emergency Police Response Call 9-1-1

DeKalb Police Arrest Driver for Fatal Hit and Run Accident

On February 8, 2022, DeKalb Police Officers located an unresponsive male lying in the 200 block of East Lincoln Hwy at approximately 8:00 AM. Upon locating the male, officers immediately began emergency medical aid. The victim was transported to Kishwaukee Community Hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. The victim is identified as 73-year-old William Mason from DeKalb.

The evidence at the scene indicated that William Mason was struck in the roadway by an unknown vehicle traveling eastbound. Recovered vehicle parts in the roadway and the injuries sustained by the victim were consistent with him being struck by a vehicle. Investigators were unable to locate any witnesses to the accident.

DeKalb Police Department officers and detectives began reviewing surveillance video in the area. Investigators learned that William Mason was attempting to cross Lincoln Hwy northbound at Second Street when he was struck by an eastbound Ford Escape. The driver of the Ford Escape did not stop to render aid nor did the driver report the accident. The vehicle was last seen traveling eastbound away from the accident.

On February 9, 2022, a DeKalb police officer located the suspected vehicle in the parking lot of an apartment complex on Greenbrier Road. The vehicle's damage was consistent with the evidence recovered at the crime scene. The vehicle was unoccupied. Officers then located and identified the driver of the vehicle from the fatal hit and run accident. This offender was brought to the DeKalb Police Department, interviewed, and arrested for the below charges:

ARRESTED:

James E. Simmons, 26 years of age from DeKalb, Illinois, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving personal injury or death, refusal to render aid, expired drivers license and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Simmons was taken to the DeKalb County Jail awaiting bond to be set.

If you witnessed this accident or have any information that can help with this investigation, please contact the DeKalb Police Department.