

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Byrd, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Media Contact – Chief David Byrd

Issued: March 20, 2023

To Provide Info Call 815-748-8400

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

First Degree Murder

On March 19, 2023, at approximately 1:40 p.m., the DeKalb Police Department responded to 847 Russell Road in reference to a possible male victim who had been shot. DeKalb Police Officers arrived on scene and located a male subject lying on the parking lot ground unresponsive. The victim (**Carl Austin M/B/33 YOA**) was transported by DeKalb Fire Department to Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital with several gunshot wounds. Carl Austin was pronounced deceased shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Witnesses at the scene of the shooting provided the DeKalb Police Department with a detailed description of the possible offender. The DeKalb Police Department, along with the DeKalb County Special Operations Team (SOT) conducted a door-to-door search for the offender.

At 847 Russell Rd., Officers made contact with a subject fitting the description provided by witnesses. The subject/offender (**Romel A. Hollingsworth Jr. M/B/20 YOA**) was apprehended, and a firearm was located.

The DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office approved First Degree Murder Charges against Romel A. Hollingsworth Jr.

Further charges may be filed at a later date.

Victim: Carl Austin M/B/33 DeKalb, Illinois

Offender: Romel A. Hollingsworth Jr. M/B/20 DeKalb, Illinois

****All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty****

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

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