

INFORMATION: HOMICIDE (UPDATE)		2019-050.2
DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2019	TIME: 4:30 P.M.	PAGE 1 OF 1

On Sunday, October 6, 2019 at approximately 1:30 a.m., Winnebago County Deputies were dispatched to Cronies' Bar, 9032 N. Second St., in Machesney Park for a person shot. Upon arrival, Deputies found a male with a gunshot wound. The victim was transported by ambulance to Javon Bea Hospital Riverside where he was pronounced deceased. Witnesses reported that the victim was involved in an altercation shortly before being shot.

A short time later, Javon Bea Hospital Rockton reported that a male had arrived at the hospital with a gunshot wound. The victim was treated and released for a non-life threatening gunshot wound.

Winnebago County Sheriff's Detectives learned that there was a planned birthday party event at the bar. At this time, the suspect or suspects are not in custody, the investigation is on-going and Sheriff Gary Caruana is requesting assistance from the public. Anyone with information regarding the shooting is asked to call the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department at 815-319-6400 or Crime Stoppers at 815-963-7867.

Winnebago County Sheriff's Detectives identified a suspect during the investigation and met with the Winnebago County State's Attorney who authorized charges. Detectives obtained an arrest warrant and the suspect was lodged in the Winnebago County Jail on the following charges:

~Kenneth J. Johnson Dob: 09/16/91 of Rockford

- First Degree Murder (8 counts)**
- Aggravated Battery with a Firearm**
- Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon**
- No FOID**

Bond was set at \$5,000,000.00 cash.

The victim was identified as Russell D. Jefferson (age 31) of Rockford. An autopsy is tentatively scheduled for Monday.

The charges against Kenneth J. Johnson are merely accusations and he is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.