



Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 23, 2025

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On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop at the intersection of Auburn and Avon Streets. The driver of the vehicle, later identified as James Richardson, fled from the deputy in his car. The deputy did not pursue Richardson's vehicle.

A short time later, Sheriff's Deputies were alerted to a crash at the intersection of Auburn and Central involving Richardson in the car that fled from the Sheriff's Deputy. While Sheriff's Deputies were responding to the crash, a pedestrian, later identified as Daniel Sinclair, ran into the roadway and was struck by a responding deputy. The deputy remained on scene to provide aid, and Sinclair was transported to a local hospital, where he was treated and released. The Rockford Police Department investigated the pedestrian accident. Sinclair, who had an active warrant in Winnebago County for retail theft, was subsequently taken into custody and booked into the county jail.

Deputies responding to the original crash at Auburn and Central located the vehicle driven by Richardson. Richardson was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries, treated, and released from the hospital, but taken into custody for traffic offenses.

The Winnebago County States Attorney's Office reviewed the facts of the case and authorized the following charges:

James C. Richardson, age 63, of Rockford

- Aggravated Fleeing
- Fleeing
- Driving while License Suspended
- Disregard Stop Sign
- Reckless Driving
- Driving too fast for Conditions
- No Insurance

The charges against James Richardson are merely accusations and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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