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Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Vehicle Pursuit Through Machesney Park Ends in Arrest

On November 5, 2026, at approximately 11:45a.m., Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies located a silver 2007 Pontiac driven by Giovanna Deleon, who was wanted in connection with a hit-and-run and fleeing and eluding incidents in Loves Park and Rockford.

Deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, however, Deleon fled, driving recklessly through Machesney Park. During the pursuit, deputies deployed stop sticks in an attempt to stop the vehicle. Deleon continued fleeing, driving through the property of Machesney Park Elementary School before traveling on the wrong side of the roadway.

Due to the driver's continued reckless actions, a coordinated maneuver to safely stop the vehicle was authorized. The pursuit came to an end near North Second Street and Roosevelt Road, where Deleon was taken into custody without further incident.

Deleon was transported to a local hospital for medical evaluation.

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

Giovanna DeLeon, age 58, of Machesney Park –

- Aggravated Fleeing to Elude
- Speeding
- Reckless driving
- Criminal damage to state supported property and given a NTA.

The charges against Giovanna DeLeon are merely accusations and she is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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