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Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



News Release

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Winnebago County Sheriff's Narcotics Investigation Leads to Methamphetamine and Firearm Arrest

Members of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit have been receiving information on a subject selling a large amount of methamphetamine in the Rockford area and began an investigation. During the course of this investigation, the subject was identified as Angel L. Rivera. On August 5th, 2026, Angel L. Rivera was taken into custody in the 3800 block of 11th Street. While being taken into custody, deputies located a loaded Ruger 57 handgun in his waistband.

Sheriff Gary Caruana praised the work of the Narcotics Unit, emphasizing the importance of proactive investigations targeting individuals responsible for distributing illegal narcotics in the community.

"Public safety isn't just a slogan, it's a commitment to the people of Winnebago County," said Sheriff Gary Caruana. "Every illegal firearm we seize and every drug dealer we take off our streets represents another step toward safer neighborhoods. I remain committed to supporting our deputies, investing in proactive enforcement, and holding violent offenders accountable. The people of Winnebago County deserve to feel safe in their homes and communities, and that's exactly what we'll continue fighting for every day."

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

Angel L. Rivera (age 44) of Rockford, IL.

- Possession of a Firearm Repeat Felony Offender (Class X Felony)
- Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine 100-400 Grams (Class X Felony)
- Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine 15-100 Grams (Class X Felony)
- Unlawful Use of Weapons (Class 3 Felony)
- Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapons in Vehicle (Class 4 Felony)

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

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