



**Sheriff Gary Caruana**  
650 W. State Street  
Rockford, IL 61102  
(815) 319-6300

# Winnebago County Sheriff's Department

## News Release



**Chief Deputy Rick Ciganek**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **ROCKFORD MAN ARRESTED FOR METH MANUFACTURING OPERATION**

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2:37p.m. Winnebago County Sheriff Deputies and Blackhawk Fire were dispatched to the 6900 block of Vesta Drive for an attached garage on fire. The caller stated they heard a loud boom and their house shook. When deputies arrived on scene, they found the garage door to be off the tracks and bowed outward. Deputies made contact with the homeowner Stephen Maroda, who was inside the residence suffering from burns on his face and body. Maroda was transported by ambulance to a local hospital.

The Illinois State Fire Marshal was called to the scene for an investigation and it was determined the explosion was caused from the production of methamphetamine.

The Illinois State Police Zone Two Meth Response Team, ATF, and Winnebago County Narcotics Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation. Inside the garage were items consistent with a meth manufacturing operation. All biohazardous material was disposed of safely. The Winnebago County States Attorney's Office reviewed the facts of the case and authorized the following charges:

#### **Maroda, Stephen P (52 years old) of Rockford, IL**

1 count- manufacture methamphetamine/<15 grams (Class 1 felony)

1 count- unlawful possession of methamphetamine precursors (Class 1 felony)

1 count- aggravated unlawful participation in methamphetamine production (Class X felony)

On March 1, 2023, Maroda was arrested and lodged in the Winnebago County Jail.

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

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