



**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 CHARGED IN 2016 MURDER**

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at 02:05 a.m., the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department responded to 1300 block of Carbaugh Avenue in unincorporated Rockford for a home invasion. When Deputies arrived on scene, they located 2 women suffering from gunshot wounds. Both victims were transported to a local hospital. Investigation revealed that unknown person(s) forced entry into the home and shot the two women.

One of the victims, 35 year- old Treesa Wiley of Rockford, was pronounced deceased at the hospital. The second victim, a 30 year- old female, suffered several gunshots wounds. This victim has since recovered from her injuries.

Thanks to the diligent work of investigators and the cooperation of the community, a suspect has been identified and taken into custody. The individual, Kahyal D. Merrills of Rockford has been charged with First Degree Murder.

"We are pleased to announce that this case has been charged, and justice will finally be served for the victim and her family," said Sheriff Gary Caruana. "This would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our investigators and the cooperation of the community."

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office would like to thank everyone who provided information and assistance in this case. They also want to remind the public that no matter how much time has passed, the Sheriff's Office will continue to investigate cold cases until justice is served.

This case remains an active investigation and anyone with information about the case is urged to contact Winnebago County Sheriff's Office at 815-282-2600 or submit a tip anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 815-963-7867.

The charge against Kahyal D. Merrills is merely an accusation and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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