



RACINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff Christopher Schmaling

Chief Deputy James P. Weidner

*******MEDIA RELEASE*******

On Monday, November 20, 2023, at approximately 5:37 p.m., the Milwaukee Police Department requested the assistance of the Sheriff's Office with the pursuit of a vehicle that was traveling southbound on I-94 entering Racine County. The operator of the vehicle was later identified as Charles Lewis, a 46-year-old male from South Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Police Department was attempting to stop the vehicle because Lewis was observed dealing drugs at a gas station in the City of Milwaukee. When marked patrol units attempted to make contact with Lewis, he fled the scene.

A deputy positioned himself with Stop Sticks behind the center wall of I-94 ahead of the pursuit. When the suspect vehicle approached his location, the deputy successfully deployed the Stop Sticks and the tires began to deflate. A second deputy was also able to successfully deploy Stop Sticks; however, Lewis continued to flee. The speed of his vehicle decreased to approximately 45 mph.

When the pursuit crossed over into Kenosha County, the Pleasant Prairie Police Department took over as the primary units. Sheriff's deputies, the Milwaukee Police Department, and the Wisconsin State Patrol continued in the pursuit as secondary units. The Pleasant Prairie Police Department used multiple units to box in the suspect vehicle and forced it to stop. Law enforcement officers from multiple jurisdictions, including a Sheriff's K-9 team, worked together to safely take Lewis into custody and clear the vehicle to ensure there were no additional suspects.

Officers searched the vehicle and located a small amount of crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia. The officers suspected Lewis destroyed additional drugs because they located multiple baggies that appeared to have been bitten off. Lewis initially gave the officers a fake name, but he was positively identified through a previous booking photograph and multiple tattoos. Lewis' criminal record includes convictions for [Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Deliver and Felony Bail Jumping](#).

The Milwaukee Police Department transported Lewis back to their jurisdiction on the drug dealing charges and other offenses. The Sheriff's Office and the Pleasant Prairie Police Department will forward charges to their respective District Attorney's Offices for offenses that occurred in their jurisdictions.

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Sheriff Schmaling stated, “I applaud the collaborative work of the Milwaukee Police Department, Pleasant Prairie Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Racine Sheriff’s Office in safely taking this dangerous criminal into custody. Drug dealers should know that law enforcement agencies across the country stand ready to take them down. Excellent work!”

Christopher Schmaling
Sheriff, Racine County

By: Lt. Michael J. Luell
Public Information Officer

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