

Thomas B. Hood  
Mayor

100 North O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, Illinois 60031-2630  
www.gurnee.il.us



Brian M. Smith  
Chief of Police

Administration 847.599.7050  
Communications 847.599.7000

# MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** 11/10/2023

**CONTACT:** Public Information Officer Shawn Gaylor

**E-MAIL:** [sgaylor@police.gurnee.il.us](mailto:sgaylor@police.gurnee.il.us)

**PHONE:** 847.599.7124

## Officer Rescues Driver After Squad Car Collision on Route 41

**Gurnee** – On November 9, 2023, at approximately 9:50 PM, Gurnee officers conducted a traffic stop on southbound Route 41 near Route 120. During the traffic stop, officers learned the driver, Zyaire France, a 20-year-old male of Zion, had an active warrant out of Wisconsin with full extradition. Officers took France into custody and transported him to the Lake County Jail.

After France was taken into custody, a Gurnee officer remained by France's vehicle, awaiting a qualified driver to arrive at the scene and take control of the car. The officer was sitting behind the vehicle inside the marked patrol squad, with lights flashing. At approximately 10:55 PM, a second vehicle, a 2017 Chevrolet Trax, driven by a 63-year-old female from North Chicago, collided with the back of the squad car. The officer, unharmed in the incident, promptly rushed to assess the condition of the Chevrolet's driver. Acting swiftly, the officer worked to extract the driver from the vehicle that had already caught fire. The passengers, a 61-year-old male and a 12-year-old female from North Chicago, were able to exit the Chevrolet without assistance. Shortly thereafter, the Gurnee Fire Department arrived to extinguish the flames engulfing the Chevrolet.

The driver and two passengers from the Chevrolet suffered minor injuries and were transported to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville for further evaluation. Intoxication is suspected in this case.

Southbound Route 41 was closed for several hours while investigators with the Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) responded to the scene to conduct the crash investigation. The incident remains under investigation.