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# MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Gurnee Police and NIPAS Resolve Armed Domestic Incident

**Gurnee** – On December 19, 2023, at approximately 9:45 PM, Gurnee officers responded to a domestic dispute in the 3400 block of Florida Avenue. Initial reports indicated a 13-year-old boy had been assaulted by his uncle, identified as Maurice L Freeman, a 43-year-old resident of Zion, IL. Freeman entered the residence without permission while the mother was at work.

Upon arrival, officers were informed that Freeman, allegedly armed with a knife, was inside the residence, making threats against the family. The children had locked themselves in a second-story bedroom, and, in a daring rescue, officers assisted the children with exiting the home through the second-story window, leaving Freeman alone inside. Despite several attempts to communicate with Freeman, officers were unable to establish contact.

Recognizing the escalating threat, the Gurnee Police Department activated the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) Emergency Response Team. NIPAS successfully deployed a drone into the residence to assess Freeman's location and identify any potential weapons. Subsequently, Freeman was taken into custody without incident. The collaboration between the Gurnee Police Department and NIPAS highlights the importance of coordinated efforts in ensuring public safety.

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office has approved the following charges against Maurice L Freeman in connection with the incident.

- Criminal Trespass to Residence
- Domestic Battery Causing Bodily Harm
- Domestic Battery with Physical Contact
- Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon
- Resisting Arrest
- Obstructing a Peace Officer