

**Lake County Sheriff's Office  
John D. Idleburg, Sheriff**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Lake County Sheriff's Office • 25 South Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue • Waukegan, Illinois 60085

**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** December 6, 2018  
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**Shields Township Armed Robbery**

On December 5, 2018, at approximately 4:00AM, Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a gas station in the 28700 block of North Waukegan Road, Shields Township, for a delayed armed robbery report.

Sheriff's Deputies arrived and spoke to the clerk. The clerk said approximately 45 minutes prior, a man came into the gas station and attempted to purchase cigarettes and alcohol. The man handed the clerk a credit card, which was declined. The man then threatened the clerk, reached toward his waistband, displayed a firearm, and told the clerk to give him the cigarettes. The man took the cigarettes and fled.

The man is described as an African-American male in his 20's. He was wearing a black hat, black hooded sweatshirt, and blue jeans.

Sheriff's Detectives are investigating. Anyone with information or anyone recognizing the man in the attached photos is encouraged to call Detectives at 847-377-4147 or Lake County CrimeStoppers at 847-662-2222.

**\*UPDATE: Suspect Identified and Arrested\***

Following the robbery, Lake County Sheriff's Detectives continued their thorough investigation. Detectives coordinated with other local police departments and Lake County Sheriff's Correctional Officers, in an attempt and determine the identity of the offender.

Detectives were able to identify the offender as Gil Orlando Melendez, 32, of the 600 block of County Street, Waukegan. Sheriff's Detectives also identified Melendez as being the offender in a retail theft, where he stole cigarettes from a gas station in the 39100 block of North Route 41, Wadsworth, on November 24, 2018.

Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Melendez for the following:

Aggravated Robbery (Class 1 Felony)  
Theft (Class 4 Felony)

On December 5, 2018, following the issuance of the arrest warrant, Melendez was arrested in front of a residence on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in North Chicago by North Chicago PD. He is being held in the Lake County Jail on \$150,000.00 bail. He is due in court this morning.

Sheriff John Idleburg said, “Our detectives have been investigating this incident since it occurred. Through their investigative work and collaboration with our correctional personnel, as well as local police departments, they quickly identified the offender and obtained an arrest warrant. I am very proud of our staff working together to bring these cases to a fast resolution.”

Sheriff Idleburg reminds the public the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

**End of Release**