



AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Office of Public Information

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MAN ARRESTED AFTER IGNORING NUMEROUS REQUESTS TO STOP BLOCKING STREET

This evening, a peaceful protest was being held at Millennium Park in downtown Aurora. Just before 7:45 p.m., a group of approximately 20 people started marching from the park eastbound on East Galena Blvd from North Stolp Ave.

The downtown area was already busy due to the outdoor dining and social distancing requirements in place by the State of Illinois. As the group marched, they were blocking traffic, which started causing significant traffic backups. Drivers were attempting to drive around the group and turn around against traffic, causing a potential danger to the group marching and the general public.

An Aurora Police Department Sergeant arrived on the scene. Concerned for the safety of the group and the general public, the sergeant gave dispersal orders over a loudspeaker for the crowd to leave the street. The crowd was told they could march along the sidewalks.

A member of the crowd also had a small child with them and they were told that they would be charged with child endangerment if they did not leave the street and return to the sidewalk.

After a short time, all but one person dispersed from the street. The 30-year-old man was given additional orders to leave the street, but he continued to refuse and shouted expletives at officers.

30-year-old Jose Garcia was arrested and charged with Obstructing an Officer and Improper Walking on the Roadway.

It is the policy of the Aurora Police Department to support and promote the exercise of individual rights, to fulfill its responsibility to uphold the law, to provide for the safety of public assembly participants as well as members of the public.

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