

SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE

*ALL INDIVIDUALS LISTED AS ARRESTED OR ISSUED A CITATION ARE INNOCENT
UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW*

Contact: EPD@EffinghamIL.com

217-347-0774

Effingham Man Taken into Custody

September 21, 2023



On September 21, 2023, at approximately 11:03 a.m., the Effingham Police Department received a report of a man armed with a rifle near the intersection of National Avenue and South Fifth Street. Officers immediately responded to the area. Officers were able to locate the suspect in the 600 block of South Fifth Street. It was determined that the suspect was in possession of an air rifle. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

The suspect was identified as Jeffrey B. Pinkerton, 49, Effingham. Mr. Pinkerton was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Criminal Trespass to Vehicle.

During this incident, Officers responded to South Side School as a precaution and remained at the school until the suspect was located. The administration at South Side was in direct communication with Effingham City Police during this event and all students and staff were secure and safe prior to, during and after the suspect was apprehended by local law enforcement.

Effingham Police Chief Jason McFarland credited the quick apprehension as a result of alert residents who saw something out of place and immediately reported it to law enforcement. "People in the neighborhood saw a man who appeared to be open carrying a rifle and dialed 911 right away to report it to law enforcement, along with a very good description of the subject in question. This immediate action allowed our Officers to respond instantly and identify and detain the suspect on sight. The teamwork between Patrol Officers in their response was excellent, as a few of the responding Officers went immediately to the local school to protect the students and inform the administration. This overall cooperation between community, school and law enforcement is a key component to what makes our City a great place to live."

Effingham Schools Unit #40 Superintendent Andrew Johnson stated, "We appreciate the collaborative efforts of our local law enforcement as well as our community members in efforts of this nature to continue to keep our schools and community safe!!!"

The Effingham Police Department was assisted by members of the Effingham County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police.

If you see it, say it! The Effingham Police Department encourages you to call the Police Department immediately at 217-347-0774 to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or business district. Information can be given anonymously by calling the CRIME STOPPERS Tip Line at 217-347-6583. Anonymous callers can receive up to \$1,000 cash rewards.