



# AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

## Office of Public Information

Media Line: (630) 256-5078 | Email: [PIO@aurora.il.us](mailto:PIO@aurora.il.us)

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September 16, 2025 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Cannabis Grow Operation Discovered After Aurora Police and Fire Respond to House Fire

Aurora, IL – What began as a response to a house fire in the 1800 block of Ashwood Lane led Aurora police officers and firefighters to uncover a large cannabis grow operation inside the residence.

On September 13 at approximately 7:23 a.m., Aurora police and fire personnel responded to a report of a structure fire. When officers and firefighters arrived, they observed small flames near the front entrance and siding damage from the heat. The Aurora Fire Department quickly extinguished the fire before it could spread through the home.

While investigating the source of the fire, firefighters observed signs of a cannabis grow operation in the basement and alerted responding officers. A protective sweep confirmed a large number of cannabis plants, grow lights, and altered electrical equipment inside the home.

Aurora police detained the two residents — 32-year-old Ryan Prey of Aurora, the homeowner, and his 20-year-old male roommate. Prey had visible facial injuries related to an incident in Chicago earlier in the day that were unrelated to the fire.

A search warrant was obtained later that day. During the warrant execution, investigators seized:

- 330 cannabis plants
- 23,586 grams of cannabis (just under 52 pounds; does not include additional jars and containers still pending final weight)
- Drug packaging materials/equipment and numerous cell phones

Following interviews, Kane County prosecutors authorized the following felony charges against Prey:

- Manufacture/Delivery of Cannabis – More than 5,000 grams (Class X Felony)
- Producing or Possessing More Than 200 Cannabis Plants (Class 1 Felony)
- Possession of Cannabis – More than 5,000 grams (Class 1 Felony)

The 20-year-old male roommate was released without charges.

“This case shows how routine calls for service can uncover far more serious threats,” said Aurora Police Chief Matt Thomas. “I want to commend both our officers and firefighters for working together to not only stop a fire from spreading, but also to safely dismantle a large-scale illegal operation that posed a risk to the entire area.”

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call the Aurora Police Department's Investigations Division at (630) 256-5500.

***Charges are not proof of guilt. The subjects listed in this release are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial, where it is the burden of the State to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.***

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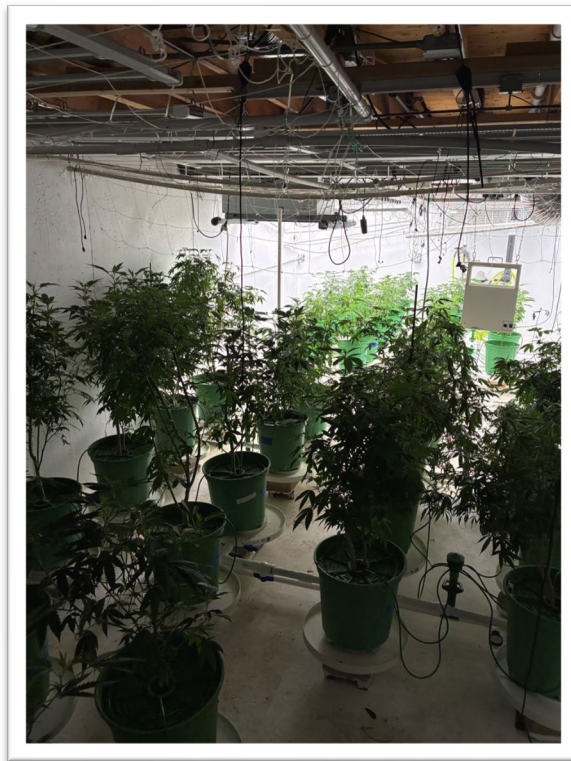
Aurora Police Department  
1200 East Indian Trail, Aurora, IL 60505





**Prey, Ryan P – 32 years old**

*\* Note: subject indicated injury occurred in Chicago earlier on 9/13/25*



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*Jim Levicki, Public Safety Media Manager  
(APD Report: AUPR25011964)*