

*Note: The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Parole Division, with a Freeport Police Department warrant, apprehended the suspect in this murder case.*

*IDOC Parole, IDOC Investigations and Intelligence and other IDOC personnel routinely play roles both major and minor in hundreds of local, county, state and federal law enforcement efforts every year. In this case and others, IDOC was part of a coordinated approach throughout Illinois.*

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## **Freeport murder suspect Damon Dixon taken into custody in Rockford**



Damon T. Dixon

*November 21, 2014 Online Staff Report*

FREEPORT, Illinois — Freeport Police Chief Todd Barkalow and Freeport Mayor Jim Gitz announced Nov. 21 that Damon T. Dixon, 22, of Freeport, was arrested by the Illinois Department of Corrections Parole Officers on a Freeport Police Department warrant for first-degree murder at an address in the 1300 block of Evelyn Street in Rockford.

The arrest occurred at approximately 8 a.m. this morning when IDOC parole agents were following up on leads generated during the investigation. Dixon was taken into custody at that location without incident. He being held in the Winnebago County Jail on a \$3 million bond. He will be transported to the Stephenson County Jail sometime next week.

*(Story continued next page)*

Dixson was the subject of a continuing city manhunt that extended to all of northern Illinois. Dixson is the prime suspect in the shooting death of William "Tony" Strong in an incident that occurred Nov. 13, 2014. Dixson was identified by eye-witness testimony.

The effort to find Dixson was a joint investigation involving the following agencies: Freeport Police Department, Stephenson County State's Attorney's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Corrections, Rockford United States Marshall's Office, Rockford FBI office, Rockford Police Department and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department.

Chief Barkalow thanked everyone who assisted in this investigation.

"The Freeport Police Department immediately alerted other law enforcement agencies and departments across Illinois to the crime and provided a description of Dixson," he said. "The continuing cooperation of law enforcement personnel, including the Department of Corrections, brought about his apprehension."

Mayor Gitz expressed relief that Dixson is now in custody.

"The people of Freeport will rest much easier now that Dixson is in custody," Gitz said. "While he is presumed innocent until proven guilty, there is sufficient evidence for the State's Attorney to bring charges against him. I hope the judicial process will move expeditiously and that justice will be served."