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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DATE : June 8, 2015

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ARREST RELEASE

On June 1, 2015 the Rockford Police released information on eight juveniles and one young adult that were arrested for various violent crimes. Also reported was that there were over 20 other juveniles and young adults who were suspects in these crimes. Over the last several days this same group of individuals have continued their criminal acts in the Rockford area.

This morning at approximately 12:30am a pedestrian was robbed at gunpoint while he was walking near the intersection of Ridge Avenue and Grace Street. Also around this time a vehicle was stolen from the 1700 block of Brown Avenue. This vehicle was later recovered at 10:00 am this morning in the parking lot of Hershey Manor, 1800 N. Main. A witness observed three young black males walking away from the car into the neighborhood.

At 1:03 this morning a female was sitting in her car in the parking lot of the Schnucks grocery store in Cherry Valley when two teenage black males approached her car with a handgun. The suspects stolen the vehicle and fled the scene. Approximately 15 minutes later Rockford Police were summoned to the Alpine Inn near East State Street and Alpine for a car fire. Officers discovered that the burning car was the car that had just been stolen in Cherry Valley. It appears that the fire started in the engine compartment but no suspects were located

At 2:30am a female employee of Rockford Health Systems, 2400 N. Rockton Avenue was followed as she entered the parking lot to go to work. As she exited her car she was approached by two younger black males, one of which was armed with a handgun. These subjects had been in a dark colored Audi SUV. The males stole the victims red Pontiac G8 and both cars fled the scene. Fifteen minutes later Rockford Police officers located both these vehicles on N. Central Avenue. The dark colored Audi SUV crashed at W. Jefferson Street and Horace Avenue. One juvenile male was located near that the SUV and was taken into custody. It was determined that this juvenile was wanted on a juvenile probation warrant and he was transported to the Public



Safety Building. The Audi SUV had been reported stolen on June 5th from the 200 block of 15th Avenue. Officer continued to track the red Pontiac and encountered it in the 800 block of Hartford. As an officer exited his squad car three young black exited the Pontiac. The front seat passenger was armed with a handgun and the rear seat passenger, who appeared to be 12 to 13 years old was armed with some type of long gun. The subject with the long gun swung the gun and pointed it at the officer from a distance of approximately twenty feet. This subject then turned and all three fled on foot behind the homes. The officer did not fire his weapon but radioed for assisting units to set up a perimeter in the neighborhood. It appeared that all three subjects ran into a heavily wooded area west of the location. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department assisted in setting up a perimeter and with the use of their K-9. During the search officers heard one shot fired in the immediate area. The Law Enforcement Aviation Coalition helicopter (Air 1) was activated and assisted in the search of the wooded area but no suspects were located.

All of these incidents appear to involve the original suspects and potential other new suspects. Law Enforcement is concerned with the young age of these offenders and their brazen use of violence, while armed with guns against helpless victims. The Rockford Police urges anyone who knows the identities of these youthful suspects to please contact the Rockford Police Department or Crime Stoppers. The community is urged to be mindful of your surroundings, report suspicious activity and never leave you keys in an unattended vehicle. Further arrests are imminent.

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