



Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
*LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**DATE : September 4, 2014**

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### **ARREST RELEASE**

On September 4, 2014 at 0930 hours a protest had formed at McDonalds located at Auburn and Central. The individuals formed on the sidewalk in front of McDonalds for the national "Fight for 15" campaign for increased wages for McDonald's restaurant employees. At approximately 1053 hours a group of the protestors entered into the roadway and locked their arms together while sitting in the middle of the eastbound traffic lanes in the 3700 block of Auburn St. The individuals remained in the street which caused Auburn Street to shut down at 10:53am.

Rockford Police met with the event organizers at the scene. The organizers indicated that several of the protestors wished to be arrested by police and they would not leave the roadway. Rockford Police gave considerable accommodations and tolerance during the protest, temporarily allowing them to block a portion of Auburn Street during a period during the day with relatively low traffic volumes. However, with rush hour approaching, and school buses and children getting out, the street needed to be reopened for public safety.

A peaceful resolution was discussed with the protestor's organize nine (9) adults for Obstructing a Police Officer. They were handcuffed and transported to the Winnebago County Justice Center. Sixteen (16) other protestors were issued traffic citations for Obstructing Person in Highway and voluntarily left the street and the area. The ages of those arrested ranged from 19 to 49 years old. Those arrested gave local addresses, addresses from other Illinois cities and adjoining states.

Mayor Larry Morrissey thanked Rockford Police for working cooperatively with the protesters. "We support the rights of the protesters to express their First Amendment



rights and argue for higher pay or better benefits. However it is the duty and responsibility of the City of Rockford to protect all of our citizens and travelers. Rockford Police worked actively and cooperatively with the protesters and their representatives to ensure that their voices were heard, they were safe, and our roads were open for access in a timely manner. I want to thank them for a job well-done today.”

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