



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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **CITY DENOUNCES FLIERS**

Rockford IL. February 5, 2010 - City officials are denouncing a one-page flyer referencing the officer involved shooting incident of Mark Anthony Barmore. The document contains false and inflammatory comments. City officials have called upon State and Federal officials to investigate the matter to determine what, if any, criminal laws may have been violated in connection with the documents. City officials have also asked, through legal representatives in the civil litigation involving the matter, that supporters of Mr. Barmore join in denouncing the document.

Contrary to suggestions made in the flier, the officers involved in the shooting were cleared of any criminal charges. The matter was investigated by the State Police and Cook County Public Integrity Unit, presented to a Winnebago County Grand Jury, and reviewed by the Winnebago County State's Attorney who refused to charge the officers. The use of force by Officers Poole and North were found to be justified by the Grand Jury.

"The statements in the flyer are outrageous, absolutely wrong, and absolutely malicious," stated Chief Epperson. "Our officers serve with great integrity and effort and endure significant risks on behalf of our community."

"The flyer runs contrary to our transparent, open, and honest assessment of our organization. Our goal is to promote healing, understanding, and a safer community," added Chief Epperson.

Currently, the City is conducting an Administrative Review of the shooting. This review will examine policies, practices, and actions of the Rockford Police Department. The Review is being conducted by Independent Assessment and Monitoring, LLC.

Additionally, the Department is working with the Department of Justice, Community Relations Mediation Service, to support positive police-community relations.

“We have made great strides in building a community oriented police department. The false claims in the flyer promote hatred instead of healing and have no place in our community,” stated Mayor Morrissey.

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