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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN BARMORE CASE APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

Rockford, IL: At this evening's meeting, the City Council of the City of Rockford approved a release and settlement agreement with the Plaintiff on behalf of all named defendants in the matter of 09-cv-50236 *Estate of Barmore v. City Of Rockford, et al.* In exchange for a release of liability and dismissal with prejudice of all claims against the City of Rockford, et al, the Estate of Barmore will receive a settlement payment in the amount of \$1,115,500.00 from the City of Rockford.

By execution of the settlement agreement the City of Rockford and all individual Defendants do not admit liability or fault for the allegations of wrongful death or excessive force in 09-cv-50236. The settlement agreement was reached after lengthy negotiations with retired former Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney as mediator. Both he and Senior United States District Court Judge Philip G. Reinhard recommended the terms of the settlement agreement.

Mr. Barmore died after an altercation with police which occurred on August 24, 2009 as City of Rockford Police Officers Oda Poole and Stan North were attempting to take Mr. Barmore into custody on a warrant issued for felony probation violations and for questioning on domestic violence complaints. Mr. Barmore's estate filed suit against the City, Poole and North on October 8, 2009.

The facts and circumstances of the incident were investigated by the Illinois State Police working with members of the Cook County Public Integrity Unit. The Winnebago County State's Attorney Office presented the results of the Illinois State Police investigation to a grand jury, which found the use of force to be justified.

The City also retained Independent Assessment and Monitoring (IAM), a California consulting firm specializing in use of force investigations and analysis, to assist the City in its administrative review of the incident. While concurring with the grand jury's finding of a justified use of force by officers, IAM's review of the Barmore shooting assessed Rockford Police Department policies and practices, training and management and made recommendations to better prevent and respond to use of force incidents, including officer involved shootings.

IAM validated many of the programs the department had already begun developing such as the Early Warning System and the use of data to better monitor officer interactions with the public. Additionally, The Rockford Police Department implemented IAM recommendations such as revising its use of deadly force investigation policies and protocols, establishing a use of force board, expanding training and management on use of force, and increasing communication and improving relationships with the minority community.

As part of the Rockford Police Department's continued commitment to excellence, the Department pursued and received accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in late 2008, which was affirmed in 2011. Through many Departmental and community efforts, City of Rockford Police use of force incidents and complaints of excessive use of force have markedly decreased over the past several years. The Department continues to emphasize managing and monitoring officer activity, ongoing policy review, and ongoing training and technology integration to improve officer and community safety and community satisfaction with the Rockford Police Department.

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