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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Rockford Police Radio Encryption to Begin August 1; Public Communication Channels Announced**

**Rockford, Ill.** – The Rockford Police Department will implement its switch to a fully encrypted system for all of its radio transmissions effective August 1, 2016.

Since the announcement of the switch in late June, Rockford Police has met with many members of the local media to discuss communication methods and protocols, and hosted a media academy citing the new methods in which the media and public will receive information.

New communication vehicles that have been developed include a dedicated media line that will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and a 72-hour Dispatch Call Log that can be accessed at [data.illinois.gov](http://data.illinois.gov). The call log will be refreshed hourly and will note calls dispatched within the previous hour. Calls that will be suppressed from the list include sexual assaults, domestics, sensitive juvenile offenses and child abductions.

The department's current information sharing on its Police Blotter, [rockfordil.gov/police/police-blotter.aspx](http://rockfordil.gov/police/police-blotter.aspx), Facebook, [facebook.com/RockfordIllinoisPoliceDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/RockfordIllinoisPoliceDepartment), and Twitter, [twitter.com/RockfordPD](https://twitter.com/RockfordPD) pages will continue.

Citizens are also encouraged to sign up for Reverse 911, [rockfordil.gov/media/41401/reverse%20911.pdf](http://rockfordil.gov/media/41401/reverse%20911.pdf), a public safety communication database of telephone numbers and associated addresses which can be used to deliver recorded emergency notifications to a selected set of telephone subscribers. Nixle, [nixle.com/register](http://nixle.com/register), a geographically targeted community information service that allows the City to distribute real-time alerts and advisories via text and email and [Crimemapping.com](http://Crimemapping.com) are additional tools citizens can use to alert them to recent activity in specific neighborhoods.

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