



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Julia Scott Valdez  
Assistant City Administrator**

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**Phone: 1815-967-6779**

**Email: [Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov](mailto:Julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov)**

### **CHIEF EPPERSON CLARIFIES STATEMENT REGARDING BARMORE INCIDENT**

ROCKFORD, IL. – August 27, 2009 – Yesterday, Mayor Morrissey and Police Chief Chet Epperson held a news conference to review the officer-involved shooting of Mr. Mark Anthony Barmore. Providing statements to the press and the public as soon as possible after a major incident of deadly force used by Rockford Police Department is standard procedure and is done so to provide transparency and openness to the public on any information that can be released as soon as possible in this type of the investigation. Part of that standard procedure has been to provide an account of the incident as reported to the Chief from the officers involved in the event. Questions were raised by some at the meeting as to Chief Epperson’s statement regarding the incident that occurred on August 24, 2009. In response to these questions, Chief Epperson has provided the following public statement:

“At the press conference yesterday, I expressed to the community that this entire incident involving Mr. Barmore is tragic and will be examined from top to bottom. I also asked the community to allow the investigatory process to be completed to gather the facts and evidence in order to gain the truth. I want to reiterate that statement once again,” said Chief Epperson. He added, “I have been criticized for reiterating the initial reports from the officers at the scene and characterizing the reports as facts as opposed to the initial reports. I want to reassure the public that every witness to this event, including the police officers who responded to the call, will be thoroughly questioned and all of the forensic evidence will be analyzed to determine the truth. At the end of this process the material will be reviewed by our independently elected state’s attorney and perhaps the grand jury. Through this process, I am confident the true facts will emerge and justice will prevail. I once again ask the public to allow the investigation to proceed, as I will, before arriving at an ultimate conclusion as to what occurred in this tragic incident.”

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