



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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

August 28, 2009

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CHIEF EPPERSON INVITES EXTERNAL REVIEW

ROCKFORD, IL. – August 28, 2009 –City of Rockford Police Chief Chet Epperson today invited independent review from both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Illinois State Police (ISP) in the recent officer involved shooting which took place this past Monday.

In letters to local FBI Senior Agent G.B. Jones and in a separate letter to Illinois State Police Captain Mark Henry, Chief Epperson invited both agencies to participate in the ongoing investigation.

“I have committed to a thorough investigation into Monday’s fatal use of force. While I have every confidence in the Rockford Police Department’s ability to complete an open and honest investigation, I have invited independent review to ensure the integrity of the process,” stated Chief Epperson.

The Chief’s request was made with the full support of the Mayor. “We have demonstrated in the past our willingness to be thorough, accurate, and critical in investigating our department’s conduct. While we will use that same approach in this case, I welcome the opportunity to have an outside law enforcement agency review the investigation. I appreciate the patience and support of our community as this investigation is completed,” Mayor Morrissey pointed out.

See attached letters

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*Chet Epperson
Chief of Police
Rockford Police Department*

August 28, 2009

Captain Mark Henry
Illinois State Police
200 S. Wyman, Suite 106
Rockford, IL 61101

Dear Captain Henry,

I have full confidence in the integrity of Rockford Police Department and the Department's ability to complete the investigation into the officer involved shooting occurring August 24, 2009. However, there have been calls from members of our community for an independent review of this matter. I know that it may be a rare exception to protocol, but I want to formally request that the ISP conduct a review of the investigation into the fatal officer involved shooting.

Please direct your response to this request to my attention.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chet Epperson".

Chet Epperson



*Chet Epperson
Chief of Police
Rockford Police Department*

August 28, 2009

G. B. Jones
Supervisory Senior Resident Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
308 W. State Suite 350
Rockford, IL 61101

Dear Agent Jones,

I have full confidence in the integrity of Rockford Police Department and the Department's ability to complete the investigation into the officer involved shooting occurring August 24, 2009. However, there have been calls from members of our community for an independent review of this matter. I know that it may be a rare exception to protocol, but I want to formally request that the FBI conduct a review of the investigation into the fatal officer involved shooting.

Please direct your response to this request to my attention.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chief Chet Epperson".

Chet Epperson