



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MAYOR MORRISSEY RESPONDED TODAY TO THE MEDIA RELEASES BY  
AURELIO DELAROSA.**

**ROCKFORD – STATEMENT OF MAYOR MORRISSEY**

It is unfortunate that the President of the local Police Union, PB&PA #6 has again released internal police matters to the Press and suggested that the administration's disciplinary and investigative activities were in retaliation for union activities. This suggestion is false.

In fact, the Chief Counsel for the PB&PA was informed on December 20th of the City's intention to notify a limited number of officers that they were under investigation for inappropriate Internet usage. That same attorney confirmed with the City administration on January 2, 2008 that Mr. DeLaRosa was aware of the pending notifications and was appreciative of the City's advance notice.

Mr. DeLaRosa's letter to the Mayor requesting that the Chief be placed on administrative leave was delivered to the Mayor's office on January 3, 2008. The allegation that the notification to these officers was in retaliation for any action by the Union is utterly false, and not supported by the facts.

A department-wide Internet audit was initiated this past fall in response to suggestions and allegations by Union representatives that Internet misuse was widespread throughout the department. City officials further observed that Internet usage for the department fell 19% in the month following the filing of the complaint alleging on-duty blogging by certain police officers and department wide internet use

fell an additional 48% in the month following the filing of the complaint alleging adult content and other internet misuse by an officer. In total, department wide internet use fell 58% as a result of the City's disciplinary actions. This represents 3528 additional hours of productivity gained from May through December.

While Union representatives have been quoted as stating as many as 70 officers are under investigation, the focus of the investigation has narrowed to 8 officers. The notification of an investigation, furthermore, is a right that these officers have under the collective bargaining agreement. In other words, the City is required to provide the notice to the officers. These are merely notifications of an investigation, the conclusion of which may or may not result in discipline or exoneration of the officers involved.

It is unfortunate for the officers involved that Mr. DeLaRosa would deliberately make their investigations public when there is an internal investigation process that is afforded these officers under the collective bargaining agreement as a protection for them. The City typically would not make any public comment on these matters as the integrity of the department and the officers involved should not suffer during the course of an investigation absent extreme circumstances, which are not present in these cases.

The City administration has a duty to continue to monitor and manage the organization. The enormous reduction in Internet use by police officers subsequent to the publicity surrounding the initial cases of misuse strongly suggests widespread problems requiring ongoing management and this administration will not back down from that management duty.

The City continues to work with PBPA representatives to resolve disputes, including negotiating sessions that proceeded today. Those sessions resulted in two major tentative agreements. One agreement resolves disputes regarding the arbitration of certain disciplinary matters, preserving the use of the Fire and Police Commission for the most severe cases. As a result of this agreement, numerous pending legal cases and a pending Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) will be dismissed by agreement of the parties. In the second agreement the Union agreed to the use of civilians to staff the front desk of the Public Safety Building together with an on duty officer. The city agreed to temporarily downsize the M3 unit. Together these two staffing changes will free up significant officers for patrol duties.

See attached

## ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERNET USAGE

