



A Statement by Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin Regarding Release of Police Records

Brickman Levy, Kathryn <kbrickmanlevy@urbanaininois.us>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY MAYOR DIANE WOLFE MARLIN REGARDING RELEASE OF POLICE RECORDS

On January 10, 2020, the Urbana Police Department responded to a call for service at the Carle Auxiliary Resale Boutique regarding an alleged purse theft that occurred on January 7. Urbana police responded, interviewed witnesses, gathered evidence, and prepared an incident report. Citing a conflict of interest and in consultation with the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, the Urbana Police Department requested the Illinois State Police continue the investigation. This transfer occurred on January 10.

The Edgar County Watchdogs' lawsuit was filed in March and covers the documents produced by the Urbana police during the early phase of the investigation of the January 7 incident. Both the Illinois State Police and the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor advised the City to withhold the records it provided out of concern that disclosure would compromise their investigation of the incident. The City of Urbana repeatedly requested updates from the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor on the status of the investigation over the intervening months. The City was repeatedly told the investigation was ongoing.

Eleven months after the incident, the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor formally announced charges would not be filed. It is regrettable that the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor delayed their decision and failed to provide timely and accurate information to the City of Urbana regarding the fact that the actual Illinois State Police investigation had been completed on March 10. As a result, Urbana taxpayers have incurred undue and needless costs related to this lawsuit.

The police report and security video footage have been released per the court's order.

For more information about the City of Urbana, please visit www.urbanaininois.us.

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Kate Levy

EA to the Mayor and City Administrator
Deputy Local Liquor Commissioner

Executive Department |City of Urbana
400 S Vine St | Urbana IL 61801
217.384.2456



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