

City of Milton Police Department

120 Parkview Drive

Milton WI, 53563

Phone: 608-868-6910 Fax: 608-868-6913

E-Mail: miltonpd@charter.net

Jerry Schuetz
Chief of Police

To: Local Media Outlets
From: Jerry Schuetz, Chief of Police
Date: 8/15/2009
Re: Prepared statement regarding former Milton PD Officer investigations
Cc: Mayor Chesmore, City Council Members, Police Commission Members
City Administrator Schmidt

Several months of independent, comprehensive investigation into allegations made against former Milton Police Department School Resource Officer Jason Casper are now complete. The reports from the criminal investigation into allegations that Mr. Casper had inappropriate sexual contact with a student was conducted by the Janesville Police Department and sent to the Rock Count District Attorney's office for review. On August 12th, 2009, District Attorney David O'Leary informed our agency that although the investigation revealed some very inappropriate behaviors, no criminal charges will be filed against Mr. Casper. Mr. Casper voluntarily resigned his employment as a police officer with the Milton Police Department effective July 5th, 2009.

Mr. Casper was a police officer in Milton for nearly 14 years. During that time period there were many good things he did while serving our community. However, the actions that were uncovered during the criminal and internal investigations associated with Mr. Casper's conduct fall well below the professional standards that our community, elected and appointed officials, and that which I as Police Chief have established for our police officers in the City of Milton.

I wish to personally thank the City of Janesville Police Department, Rock County Sheriff's Department and the State of Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation for their assistance in these investigations. These agencies demonstrated a commitment to professionalism and put forth a tireless effort to find the truth in these very labor intense and often challenging investigations. I also wish to thank the School District of Milton for their full support and cooperation throughout these investigations as well. I remain grateful for the support shown to our agency by Mayor Chesmore, elected and appointed officials and fellow city employees. Most importantly, I am very proud of our sworn and civilian staff who continually worked hard in their assigned tasks during what has been an emotionally challenging time for our agency.

The behaviors you will read about in documents scheduled to be released in the upcoming weeks are disturbing and quite frankly disgust me. They hit our community in mid-May like a sucker punch, not foreseen and leaving behind a black eye that will take some time to heal. As a result of these investigations, our command staff and I have worked with School District Officials to make SRO position program recommendations that will be forthcoming to the City Council and School board for their review. While we cannot ever completely predict human behavior, we seek to create program modifications that to the extent possible minimize the possibility of inappropriate relationships and inappropriate conduct by those entrusted the honor of working with our community's children.

It is my hope that the decision of the DA's office coupled with our subsequent release of records related to the investigations begin to bring closure and necessary healing to all those impacted by this unfortunate series of events. Throughout the records release process we will be transparent and in time this black eye will heal. Our honesty with the public is not intended to shame anyone, but instead serves as a lifeline to the public in maintaining a trust relationship with those we serve. The Milton Police Department has a proud history of service and integrity, well established prior to my arrival as Chief. The act of one person who no longer represents us does not diminish the great work that our police officers in Milton have done and continue to do every day. It is my hope that each of our citizens are and continue to be as proud of our Police Officers and the work they do as I am as their Chief in being afforded the honor of to lead them.

If you have questions about how this matter was handled please contact me directly.