



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Portage releases findings of independent review, video of Deputy City Manager arrest

Independent investigation shows Portage Department of Public Safety,
City of Portage followed city policies, procedures and protocols

The City of Portage today released the results of an independent investigation, police video and a police incident report stemming from the arrest of Deputy City Manager Michael Carroll on charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

“The residents we serve expect transparency, fairness and accountability from their city leaders, which is why I felt strongly this situation needed an independent, third-party review to bring all the facts to light, highlight potential areas of improvement and ultimately make us stronger and better as a city,” said **Joe La Margo**, City of Portage City Manager.

Key findings from the independent investigation, completed by Warner Norcross + Judd, LLP on October 20, include:

- ✓ The City of Portage and the Portage Department of Public Safety followed written policies, protocol and procedures
- ✓ There was no evidence of bias, special treatment or improper action by the city manager or police department
- ✓ Carroll appears to have attempted to use his position in city government improperly during the traffic stop

As a result, the report recommends disciplinary action for Carroll and an employment requirement he undergo counseling. A last-chance employment agreement, recommended by the third-party review, will be implemented.

At the time of the arrest, Carroll was not in a city vehicle and the incident happened after business hours.

“I believe we need to hold our employees to the highest standards, especially those in positions of leadership,” La Margo said. “We will be following the recommendations of the independent investigation so we can move forward. This unfortunate incident will not distract us from our mission of ensuring Portage as a great place to live, raise a family, retire or run a small business.”

The report and video can be accessed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/15cya54hzk8n05x/AADsHjw8osZgYfiMguzhdyIga?dl=0>

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