

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RACINE POLICE OFFICERS APPALLED BY MAYOR MASON'S HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES

RACINE – In advance of tonight's meeting of the Racine Finance and Personnel Committee to consider Mayor Cory Mason's proposal to implement significant changes to city employees' health insurance benefits, Todd Hoover, the president of the Racine Police Association (RPA) issued this statement:

"When former Governor Scott Walker waged his attack on unions a few years ago, many lawmakers were appropriately outspoken and critical of those measures – especially Cory Mason. For that reason, among others, Racine's police officers are monumentally disappointed to see Cory Mason seek to implement from City Hall the same harsh maneuvers that he once so openly chastised from the State Capitol.

"One of the most significant challenges facing the Racine Police Department is its ability to attract and retain officers, and for our members, the reason for that comes as no surprise. In the last decade, we have not seen an increase in our take home pay, all the while the cost of living has continued to climb. In light of this, and a recent study which indicates that Racine is one of the least-safe cities in the state, the officers that form the RPA's ranks are gravely concerned about changes that will only make our jobs more difficult and dangerous.

"The economic challenges facing Racine are not a surprise to any city employee. No one has worked harder to do more with less than the dedicated public employees that serve this community. That is especially true of the men and women that serve the Racine Police Department, who confront this city's challenges each and every day – and who have seen one of their own pay the ultimate sacrifice. For our members, it's not only appalling for our city leaders to express their appreciation for an officer's service while standing over their coffin, only to then turn and propose harsh cuts to our ability to do our jobs and support our families – it is unconscionable.

"On behalf of the dedicated men and women that work tirelessly to keep our community safe, as well as all those employees that serve a public function, we urge the City Council to explore measures to strengthen the City's ability to serve its citizens and not hamper it irreparably."

The RPA is a proud member of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association.