

**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mayor Mason Launches Review of Racine Police Department**

In the wake of recently made known concerns about racial and gender bias in the Racine Police Department, Mayor Cory Mason has directed a review of the cultural climate of the department. "Today I am directing the City Attorney, Human Resources Manager, and Affirmative Action Officer to investigate concerns of racial and gender bias within the Racine Police Department," Mason said.

The mayor made the decision after a survey conducted by the Racine Police Department unions revealed a number of Racine Police Department personnel who chose to make racially charged and sexist comments. Concerns about those comments were communicated in writing to the mayor. The letter communicating those concerns is attached.

"Yesterday I met separately with the unions, Chief Howell, and a group of minority and female officers. All parties raised concerns about what they learned from the survey," Mason said. The mayor will reserve judgment on how to proceed as the city learns more through the review.

"The concerns raised yesterday are serious. To be clear: there is no place in city government for those who believe that their colleagues are incapable of performing and excelling at their duty to protect and serve the community simply because of their race or gender. "I have stated publicly and privately that Racine needs a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community it serves. The city has been served well by the Community Oriented Policing philosophy. Our objective here is that we live up to those values," the mayor concluded.

Mason has directed staff to undertake all efforts to complete their review within 30 days.

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