

Park Ridge Investigation
Interim Report
May 15, 2008

Activities To Date

As of May 15, 2008 my firm and private investigators have completed in excess of twenty-five (25) citizen interviews as well interviews with nine (9) elected officials and other administrative staff of Park Ridge. In addition to conducting interviews, we have requested and been furnished by the police department with various police reports, video tapes, citizen complaints and other documents relating to various incidents involving Park Ridge police officers.

On April 10, 2008 I met with Buzz Hill and Juliana Maller to discuss some of the practical aspects of my prospective investigation. On April 17, 2008, I met with Juliana Maller and Acting Chief Thomas Swoboda to discuss the investigation in general and the need for the complete cooperation of the police department. Acting Chief Swoboda assured me that I would have his total cooperation.

On April 26, 2008 I began to interview the Alderman for their input on problems associated with the Park Ridge Police Department (hereafter referred to as "police department").

On May 2, 2008 I conducted a more extensive interview of Acting Chief Swoboda and was furnished at that time with documents I had initially requested.

Pursuant to our request, the Park Ridge staff issued a press release and placed a notice on the city website informing the public that on Saturday, May 3, 2008 my staff would be at City Hall to interview persons with information relating to the performance of the police department. Six persons were interviewed on that date.

Arrangements were made to conduct additional interviews on May 10, 2008 between 9:00 am. and 12:00 pm. at the Park Ridge Library. Notice was again provided to the public and phone calls were placed to persons who we were informed had information relating to the police department. Approximately twelve (12) interviews were conducted on this date.

Several other interviews had been conducted at our office and at the individual's place of business. We have also interviewed several persons by phone who did not wish to submit to in person interviews.

We continue to receive police reports and other written material in connection with many of the complaints we have received. We have also received and viewed video tapes of incidents involving police activity.

I have received excellent cooperation by Acting Chief Swoboda and the

administrative staff of Park Ridge.

Future Activities

We have provided the public with notice of our availability to conduct additional interviews at City Hall on Saturday, May 17th, between 9:00 am. and 12:00 pm. We are also in the process of placing phone calls to additional persons who we have learned may have voiced concerns over police activities.

We are attempting to place personal calls to any person who we learned has voiced a complaint about the conduct of a Park Ridge police officer. In some situations we have learned of alleged incidents from third parties but have not yet determined the identities of persons involved. The investigation into these allegations will continue.

Beginning on approximately June 1st, I intend to begin the interviews of members of the police department. I intend to request interviews of all officers against whom a citizen has made a specific accusation of misconduct. I have spoken with both the Acting Chief as well as the attorney for the police union to establish a procedure for these interviews. I am optimistic that a procedure will be established that satisfies the concerns of the union attorney which will permit the interview of these officers.

I will offer to meet with all members of the department. I intend to interview officers for general input as to positive and negative issues relating to the police department. I also will attempt to interview former members of the police department as to all incidents relevant to my investigation.

The interviews of the officers should be completed by the 3rd week of June. Over the next six (6) weeks we will continue to review documents and available physical evidence, as well.

Barring presently unforeseen difficulties I anticipate having my investigation completed and a report to the City Council by the middle of July.

Please let me know if you have additional questions relating to the status of my investigation.

Terry A. Ekl