



Communications Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement Regarding Religious Messages on City-Controlled Media

The following is a statement from Mayor Harold Perrin, in its entirety.

On July 31, 2015, I received a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation objecting to “the city’s 911 emergency dispatcher’s endorsement of personal religious views.”

In response to this letter I directed Jeff Presley, the Director of Jonesboro E-911, to remove the posts that were described from the Dispatch Jonesboro Facebook page, which he did. At the time, I decided it was better to be cautious and remove the posts until we could look into this issue further.

After further review, I have decided to request a legal opinion from the Arkansas Attorney General as to the legality of putting posts that may contain religious content on city-run Facebook pages. When I took office I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land. I am committed to ensuring that the City of Jonesboro in all its operations obeys the law.

In the meantime, the City of Jonesboro will continue to post items on our Facebook pages that are inspirational and uplifting.

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