

Police Department

Darren J. Gault Chief of Police

1640 6th Avenue Moline, Illinois 61265

(309) 524-2230 24 hr. non-emergency (309) 797-0401 FAX: 524-2238

Investigations 524-2140

<u>Juvenile</u> 524-2155

<u>Records</u> 524-2200

<u>Traffic</u> 524-2210

PRESS RELEASE DECEMBER 18, 2019

On 12/18/19, David Taylor was arrested by the Illinois State Police regarding an alleged theft from the City of Moline and an additional allegation of theft from a youth baseball team. Mr. Taylor is a former police officer with the Moline Police Department and resigned on May 21, 2019.

In April 2019, then Interim Police Chief RT Finney was made aware of suspicions that Mr. Taylor, who had been a sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, had committed theft from the city. These suspicions arose during an internal review that raised cause to conduct a further investigation. Interim Chief Finney immediately placed Mr. Taylor on administrative leave and requested the Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation conduct an investigation. Interim Chief Finney had reason to believe that Mr. Taylor had possibly misused his department issued credit card and converted city purchased property to his own use.

The Moline Police Department takes these types of allegations very seriously and took immediate action. The Illinois State Police was requested to conduct an independent and thorough investigation to determine, not only if these allegations proved valid, but if any other wrongdoing was discovered. The Moline Police Department is committed to the highest levels of integrity and public trust. To enhance that level of trust, we removed ourselves from the investigation and cooperated fully with the Illinois State Police to ensure no stone was left unturned.

Our officers are extremely dedicated, hardworking and loyal public servants. Each day our fine men and women come to work to serve the citizens of Moline and the guests to our fine city. The allegations against Mr. Taylor are no reflection of the caliber of honesty, integrity and hard work of every member of this department. The oversight and internal controls allowed department staff to discover discrepancies and take action. The internal reporting and adherence to those controls allowed this improper activity to come to light and reflects the integrity of our department staff. We hold our citizens accountable for wrongdoing and we hold our police officers to an even higher standard of conduct both on and off duty.

We are confident that the criminal justice system will afford Mr. Taylor his rights to a fair trial and he will be held accountable if the allegations against him are proven true. We thank the Illinois State Police and the State's Attorney's Office for their thorough, fair and impartial investigation. The Illinois State Police will handle all media inquiries regarding the criminal case against Mr. Taylor.

"The badge of a police officer is a symbol of public faith and accountability is important to the level of trust the public has in its police department." – Chief Darren Gault

It is important to note the Mr. Taylor is no longer employed at the City of Moline.

Darren Gault | Chief of Police

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