



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Brian Lau – Police Chief

DATE OF MEETING: May 4, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Police Department

Officer Kayla Morris decided to resign from her position as Lieutenant and return to a patrol position under the bargaining group on April 1st, 2026. This change was purely for personal reasons, for scheduling and family time.

Officer Gabriel Christensen has accepted a job with the Waterloo Police Department, and his last day with Independence will be May 9, 2026.

Administration has been working through the planning phases for our law enforcement needs for hosting Ragbrai as an overnight town. Along with several planning meetings with the committee, we are working through the hiring process for temporary officers. Captain Isley has been working hard at establishing a schedule and assignments for all officers for the two-day event.

With warmer weather, pedestrian traffic has started to increase. Officers have started talking to people in the downtown area who have been riding bicycles and scooters regarding the city's ordinance, as part of our educational process to alleviate the issue. We will continue to educate the youth as we participate in the yearly bicycle safety day on May 7th.

The Police Department participated in the Career on Wheels event hosted by the Independence School District on April 27th and plans to participate in the Indee Impact Career Fair on May 22.

With the recent April storm, our indoor range facility lost shingles due to the high winds and hail we experienced on the north side of town. The roof on this building is the original roof, and it would be of no benefit to the city to file an insurance claim due to its age. We are currently getting repair estimates to assess this from a budgeting standpoint, to be paid after July 1st for our next budget cycle.

The roof replacement for the Police Department was started on April 28th, with completion anticipated within the same week. A big thank you to Freed Construction for the quick responses and attention in helping us with our water leaks and now the replacement.