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Mayor Dan Abendroth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA STATEMENT

Mequon Mayor Dan Abendroth today issued the following statement after the resignation of two members of the City's Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, including two members who reached a plea agreement with the Ozaukee County District Attorney for violating state open meetings law:

"It is disappointing that two members of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners violated open meeting laws while carrying out their duties as part of the recruitment process for the City's next Police Chief. As detailed by the Ozaukee County District Attorney, two members of the Board stepped over the line of appropriate conduct by meeting with one of the candidates outside the proper process. The Ozaukee County District Attorney has conducted a thorough investigation of this matter with the help of the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office, and I support this conclusion.

"The two members involved in this incident failed to uphold their oath and in doing so, they let down the citizens of Mequon. Their actions are out of line with what is expected from those who serve our community.

"In consultation with the Common Council, I am working to identify residents to fill these positions and help select a new Police Chief. The only way to show residents that we have followed both the letter and the spirit of the law is to terminate the existing search and begin a new recruitment process with a fresh perspective and steadfast commitment to following the law and maintaining transparency. That's the only way citizens can know the City is handling this matter the right way. There can be no cloud over how the Commission selects the new Chief, and as such it is important that the City does the right thing and starts over with a clean slate.

"In the meantime, we'll work to find new members for the Board and begin a new recruitment process. The citizens of Mequon expect and deserve nothing less."

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