



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Chief Tom Stefanson
E-MAIL: tstefanson@woodridgeil.gov
PHONE: 630-719-4733
FAX: 630-719-9266

Woodridge Village Addresses Lawsuit Filed On January 17, 2025

WOODRIDGE, III. (JANUARY 17, 2025) – A lawsuit was filed on January 17, 2025, by Ekl, Williams & Provenzale LLC on behalf of Derrick House against the Woodridge Police Department. The Village of Woodridge and the Woodridge Police Department are aware of the lawsuit, acknowledge the serious nature of the allegations, and are committed to providing transparency regarding the incident that took place on January 19, 2024.

In response to the legal matter and several media inquiries, the Village of Woodridge has issued the following statement:

"While we respect the legal process and the right of individuals to pursue their grievances through the courts, we wish to clarify the context surrounding the incident.

On the day in question, our officers were responding to a highly volatile situation involving individuals suspected of possessing firearms, slashing tires, and discharging a weapon. Given the immediate danger posed by these individuals, officers acted based on information available at the time, which led to the stop of a vehicle that, unfortunately, was not the one they were specifically seeking.

The Village of Woodridge deeply regrets the distress caused to the occupant of the vehicle involved. Our officers acted under the assumption that they were intervening in an emergency, with the safety of the community at the forefront of their actions. This was a decision made in good faith, with the intention of preventing further harm.

We are committed to transparency and accountability in all matters, including this incident, and will defend this new lawsuit. Our priority remains ensuring the safety and security of all

individuals in our community, while also ensuring our officers are equipped with the appropriate training and guidance to handle challenging situations with professionalism.

We ask for understanding as we navigate this process and remain dedicated to upholding the trust and safety of the public we serve.”

The Village of Woodridge is committed to maintaining the trust of its residents, upholding public safety, and ensuring accountability within the community. As the legal process progresses, the Village will continue to keep the community informed. However, due to ongoing litigation, certain details cannot be fully discussed at this time. The Village remains focused on fostering a safe, transparent environment and will provide updates as appropriate.

###