



August 28, 2024

City of Davenport statement on police-related dog incidents

The City of Davenport wants to express its condolences to the family involved in the events that led to the loss of their dog on August 21, 2024.

The incident is upsetting to us, particularly because children were present. Right away, the Davenport Police Department assured the City it would review the incident and ensure the department's standards were met. That review is now complete. While we acknowledge the desire for a more urgent response, taking time for due diligence was of the utmost importance.

The City recognizes that police officers are often in unpredictable situations, where they are entrusted with the authority to make decisions in a matter of seconds. In this case the Davenport Police officer expressed his sincere fear that he would be seriously injured, and we believe the officer's body worn camera supports his statements.

The City also wants to recognize a media report that the same officer was also involved in an incident on July 13, 2024. Recognizing we can't provide solace for the loss of a pet, the City and police worked together with the dog owner on a financial resolution.

But to be clear – these incidents, while both tragic, are unrelated, and any attempt to mischaracterize them as malicious actions is inaccurate. The violent threats and harassment on social media targeting the officer and his family are wrong and terribly inappropriate.

The City of Davenport expresses sympathy to the dog owners in both instances and remains committed to leading with transparency in all matters of public interest.