



*"History's Hometown"*

CITY OF AUBURN

Jeff Dygert  
City Manager

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**OFFICER MISCONDUCT**

**Date: March 4, 2022**

**Release Prepared by: City Manager, Jeff Dygert and Police Chief, James Slayton**

On the afternoon of Monday, February 28, 2022, City Manager, Jeff Dygert and Police Chief, James Slayton received identical anonymous written complaints via the US Mail, indicating possible misconduct of an Auburn Police Officer assigned as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Auburn High School.

An internal investigation to verify and validate the claims was initiated immediately. The SRO was removed from the school and from service on the morning of Tuesday March 1, 2022.

As the investigation into the claims progressed it quickly became evident there were legitimate and serious concerns related to the officer's relationship with a student.

In order to ensure transparency and avoid any potential conflicts the criminal investigation was turned over to the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is working in conjunction with the Cayuga County District Attorney's Office and they have charged Officer, William Morrissey with a number of offenses.

Officer Morrissey is currently suspended without pay pending the outcome of both our internal and the Sheriff's Office's criminal investigation.

The Auburn Enlarged City School District has been involved with our investigation and will be providing support for students as necessary. A replacement SRO has been assigned to the Auburn High School.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding this incident or any other pertinent information is encouraged to contact Detective Lieutenant Frederick Cornelius at 315-253-6562. Tips can be sent to [tips@cayugacounty.us](mailto:tips@cayugacounty.us) or be made anonymously at <https://www.cayugacounty.us/452/Send-a-Tip>. You can also call the Sheriff's Office at 315-253-1179 and follow the prompts to reach any member or office. Questions related to specific charges can be made to the Cayuga County District Attorney's Office at 315-253-1391.

As this is an active ongoing investigation, no further information is available at this time.

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