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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 5, 2007**  
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### **Richmond Statement on Police Lawsuit**

As counsel for the City of Richmond, we are disappointed to learn that the plaintiff's attorney for eight members of the Richmond Police Department has already or will soon file suit against the City of Richmond, repeating allegations of discrimination within the police department that he has spread through the media for the past few months.

The filing of this lawsuit is particularly distressing because the plaintiffs chose to rush into court before the independent investigation of these charges has been completed.

Whatever the facts in this matter prove to be in the end, the City has a responsibility to conduct a thorough, fair and independent investigation into these accusations, ascertain the truth and take any necessary remedial action.

Even when the allegations were originally lodged, the plaintiffs brought them to the press first. They did not bother to inform the City of the specifics of the charges.

The City responded immediately by ordering an outside, impartial investigation into the allegations, and found an independent investigator with impeccable credentials to conduct it.

Now, rather than await the results of the investigation, the plaintiffs have circumvented the process and rushed into court.

It's unfortunate that they have chosen this path – after all, the people of Richmond, as well as the participants in this case, deserve the fair, thorough and independent investigation that the investigator, Mr. Marshall, is trying to conduct.

The City's position is clear: its duty, consistent with the public interest, is to ensure a full and fair investigation by an impartial, professional investigator – in accordance with applicable law, prevailing professional standards and common decency. If the results of the investigation show that discriminatory conduct occurred, the City will comply with its duty to fully and fairly remedy the situation.

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