



Press Release

The Town of Springdale regrets the state's decision to file third-degree felony charges against Town Manager Richard Wixom and Chief of Police Kurt Wright relating to the collection of traffic fines from foreign tourists within the Town's jurisdiction. Rick Wixom is a valued town employee with a distinguished record of service to Springdale and other communities; Chief Wright has been a law enforcement officer with an outstanding record of service in Washington County.

The Town acknowledges that proper procedures for the collection and remittance of fines from traffic citations were not followed in certain limited instances. However, upon recently learning of its non-compliance, the Town immediately sought to determine monies to be reimbursed to the state and the local justice court, and has begun an independent audit to determine a full amount for future reimbursement. At the same time, the Town undertook the review and revision of its practices and policies regarding collection of fines to insure compliance with state law.

The Town is firmly convinced that Mr. Wixom and Chief Wright had no criminal intention and that they believed the procedures they used had been approved by a local justice court judge. We are confident that no individuals, including the two persons charged, benefited personally.

Springdale practices community policing; the foremost mission of its officers is to protect and serve. To put the traffic ticket issue into perspective, Zion National Park hosts about 3 million visitors a year, most of whom travel through Springdale, Rockville, and Virgin, the towns within our police department's jurisdiction. In these three towns, our police officers issue an average of 47 traffic tickets a month. Very few of those tickets go to foreign visitors.

Springdale genuinely hopes that no one, citizens and visitors alike, lose confidence in Chief Wright, his officers, or the Town as a result of these charges.

Mr. Wixom and Chief Wright are individuals of highest integrity, and the Town is saddened by the damages these charges will bring to their professional reputations as well as their personal well-being and that of their families.

For the time being both Mr. Wixom and Chief Wright will remain in their respective positions with full authority and compensation, pending the outcome of the prosecutor's case.

Springdale Town Council – February 11, 2013

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