



# Police chief releases report on deleted video

## Jack says evidence deletion was result of human error

By Sarah Pryor  
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA – The day after The Freeman published a column on the front page about video evidence deleted

by the Waukesha Police Department, Police Chief Russell Jack released the findings of an internal investigation into the matter accompanied by a news release disputing the column

by Darryl Enriquez. Enriquez's column chronicles his assessment of the case of Mark Schroeder, a Wauwatosa man who police



Jack

video tape that documented what actually happened that day

say interfered with a crash investigation in June 2010, and the Waukesha Police Department's deletion of a squad car

### Online

The report on the internal investigation is available at [www.gmtoday.com](http://www.gmtoday.com)

In the column, Enriquez references his "friend," who was involved in the accident, and who claims Waukesha police officer Ryan LaFavor "slammed" Schroeder to the ground for repeatedly enter-

ing the scene, attempting to get to his daughter who was also involved in the accident.

According to court documents, on June 3, Judge Kathleen Stilling dismissed "resisting or obstructing" charges against Schroeder, citing "bad faith" on the part of the Waukesha Police Department, based partly on

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the number of views of the lost video.

When writing the column Enriquez contacted Jack to get his input on the issue, but the chief declined to comment on the incident or any internal investigations related to the videos because the department and city are facing a lawsuit from Schroeder.

However, Thursday the police chief reversed his previous position and released the documents as a result of the number of calls the department received following publication of the column – and in an attempt to remain transparent. The full text of his release can be found on today’s page 8A.

Meanwhile, Judge Stilling is on vacation and couldn’t be reached for comment.

According to internal investigation documents, both audio and video from the scene of the accident were captured from two squad cars, the recordings were marked “crash investigation” and then purged from the system after 120 days, per department policy.

The documents state that if the tapes had been labeled as “use of force,” they would have been saved.

In his release Thursday, Jack did admit deletion of the video was a mistake.

“Had the video been labeled properly, it would have been saved. It was an honest mistake – a human error,” he wrote. “Corrective actions have been taken, officers were held accountable and new procedures are now in place to ensure this does not happen again.”

“It is unfortunate that key evidence was destroyed, but this was an error of omission with no intent to keep the items from the court,” said Deputy Police Chief Mark Stigler in the investigation documents.

Jack signs off at the end of the investigation documents as well.

“I concur,” Jack states. “This matter is closed.”

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