

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heyburn Police Department Releases Results from Independent Investigation Report

Officer returning to duty effective immediately

HEYBURN, Idaho | August 11, 2023 — Heyburn Police Department will release an awaited independent investigation report commissioned by the agency after the events of May 27, 2023, when Heyburn officers were dispatched to Interstate 84 near mile marker 211 for two uncontrolled dogs loose on the freeway causing traffic safety concerns. A press conference to announce the investigative findings is scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2023, at Heyburn City Hall (941 18th Street, Heyburn) in Council Chambers at 3:00pm MDT.

The investigation was conducted by the Jerome Police Department, an independent agency which is a member of the Magic Valley Regional Critical Incident Task Force. Pursuant to a request from the Minidoka County Prosecuting Attorney, Twin Falls County Prosecuting Attorney also reviewed the investigation and supports the conclusion that the Heyburn police officer's actions were justified under Idaho Code § 25-3514. The officer, who had been on administrative leave during the investigation, will return to duty effective immediately.

The final 29-page public report, with redactions to preserve privacy concerns for all parties involved, can be found [here](#).

Chief of Police, Ryan Bertalotto

"I want to thank the Jerome Police, the Minidoka County Prosecuting Attorney, and the Twin Falls County Prosecuting Attorney for their diligence in pursuing the investigation of a difficult matter. The process was thorough and professional. I appreciate the Minidoka County Sheriff's Office, the Idaho State Police, and the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center for lending resources and for ongoing collaboration and support. I also thank the residents of Heyburn for trusting in our commitment to serving our community in the best way possible -- meeting community expectations while maintaining the safety of our citizens and officers."

"To continue to advance the level of service to our community, we have recognized the incident as an opportunity to examine Heyburn Police's policies, training, and resources. As a result, we have already purchased and implemented animal control equipment as well as reviewed and updated the department policy. We have begun discussions with the Idaho Transportation Department to address options to warn motorists of safety hazards and traffic stoppage in higher-risk construction areas like Interstate 84 at mile marker 211. We have also begun internal discussions on animal control solutions as a city."

Heyburn Mayor, Dick Galbraith

"The Mayor's office and City Council recognize the effect the incident and subsequent investigation have had on our community. We trust that the officers of the Heyburn Police Department will continue to serve our citizens with the utmost care and that they remain committed to keeping our community safe."

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