City of
MUSKEGON HEIGHTS

2724 Peck Street
Muskegon Heights, Michigan
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Mayor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2026

Statement from the Mayor of the City of Muskegon Heights

The City of Muskegon Heights has been informed that criminal charges have now been filed against Mr. Shawnderick Roberson.

Prior to the filing of these charges, Mr. Roberson had already been placed on administrative suspension with pay while the investigation involving City Hall remained pending. With criminal charges now having been filed, the circumstances have materially changed, and the City must evaluate its responsibilities based upon the interests of the institution, its employees, and the residents we serve.

Mr. Roberson must now devote his time and attention to addressing his personal legal matters and the judicial process that will follow. At the same time, the City must remain fully focused on the uninterrupted operation of municipal government and the continued delivery of essential services to our residents.

For those reasons, the Mayor and City Council believe it is in the best interests of the City of Muskegon Heights to separate from Mr. Roberson at this time.

This decision should not be interpreted as a statement regarding the merits of the criminal charges or the ultimate outcome of those proceedings. Those matters will be addressed through the judicial process. The City's responsibility is different. Our responsibility is to protect the stability of City government, maintain public confidence, and ensure that Muskegon Heights remains positioned to move forward during a significant period of transition.

The City will continue to cooperate with all lawful requests from federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities. We will also continue following the communication and response protocols established with the Office of the City Attorney so that information released on behalf of the City is accurate, responsible, and consistent with the City's legal obligations.

Effective immediately, Police Chief Maurice Sain will continue serving as Acting City Manager. Chief Sain has the full support of the Mayor and City Council as he provides administrative leadership during this transition and works with City staff to maintain continuity of operations and municipal services.

The Mayor and Council will also immediately devote our efforts to identifying and selecting a capable, experienced, and thoroughly vetted permanent City Manager. Muskegon Heights needs steady,

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professional leadership, and we intend to conduct that process thoughtfully while also recognizing the importance of moving forward without unnecessary delay.

I understand that recent events have created concern, frustration, and uncertainty throughout our community. But this moment does not define the City of Muskegon Heights. Our residents deserve a government that is prepared to respond to difficult circumstances, make responsible decisions, and continue moving forward.

As Mayor, I remain focused on doing exactly that.

We will continue governing. We will continue providing services. We will continue cooperating with the appropriate authorities. And together with the City Council, our employees, and the residents of Muskegon Heights, we will work to restore confidence, strengthen our institutions, and move this City forward.

Our community has faced difficult moments before, and we have continued to persevere. We will do so again.

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