

Statement by Jon Costas
Mayor of Valparaiso
September 3, 2015

Last Saturday evening, August 29th, a Valparaiso citizen driving in downtown Valparaiso was pulled over by an officer of the Burns Harbor Police Department. The officer was on duty in Valparaiso that evening because he was participating in a countywide policing gang task force. The driver of the car was Darrell Jackson, a Valparaiso citizen who has lived in our city since 2009.

Mr. Jackson was arrested by the officer during the stop for failure to identify himself and resisting arrest. Consequently, the Porter County Prosecuting Attorney, Brian Gensel, reviewed the matter and has decided not to bring any charges against Mr. Jackson.

I met with Mr. Jackson to discuss the incident, reviewed the video of the arrest, and conferred with city and community leaders about the matter. In my opinion, the Burns Harbor police officer's conduct that night fell short of the level of professionalism our citizens expect and deserve.

Valparaiso is a vibrant and welcoming city that celebrates its diverse and talented citizenry. We will continue to strive to achieve the highest standards of citizen respect in our policing efforts as well as in all of the vital services we provide to our residents.