

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of Freeport is aware of an unfortunate situation involving a cemetery plot at the City Cemetery. Specifically, a cemetery plot was sold to Mrs. Wilford Robertson, Sr. in 1970 for the burial of her husband, Wilford Robertson, Sr. At the same time, Mrs. Robertson also purchased the plot next to Mr. Robertson's so that she could be buried next to him. After her passing in June 2025, it was discovered that Mrs. Robertson's plot was somehow re-sold to another individual in 2013, who was interred in that location. It is now apparent that this was due to the error of a cemetery sexton who is no longer employed by the City. While we can not simply reverse the error, the City of Freeport has committed to doing whatever we can to fairly address this difficult situation.

At this time, the City is pleased to report that we have consulted with the Robertson family, and, through the generous and expert support of Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home and Chapel Hill Cemetery, have reached an accommodation whereby Mr. and Mrs. Robertson will be buried together in a plot of the family's choosing at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Freeport. The City is of course covering all costs of the move and the interment for both Mr. and Mrs. Robertson.

The City would also like to assure residents that steps are being taken to ensure that this situation is an isolated one. Modern record-keeping methods go a long way towards avoiding this sort of human error through the use of a State electronic registry, and we are working to digitize our legacy records as well. In the meantime, if any residents have concerns about a plot owned by them or their family members, they can contact City Cemetery at (815) 235-8210 to confirm their plots.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this error has caused the Robertson family in their time of grief, and greatly appreciate their cooperation and understanding in working with us towards an agreed resolution of this issue.

/s/ William R. Boyer III, City Manager