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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF FOLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SECURITY PROGRAM DELAYED

Contact:

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On advice of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, the Peace Officers Standards and Training Board (POST) has taken action to stop the City of Foley's plan to provide twenty four hour security coverage for the city's residents.

By attempting to force the city to drop its plans and negotiate a new contract for fewer service hours with the Benton County Sheriff, the Attorney General leaves the city without regular security patrol until the conflict is resolved.

The Benton County Sheriff has not been willing to provide the level of service that Foley needs at a price Foley can afford.

This delay hurts the citizens of Foley:

- It disrupts the city's effort to deal with significantly reduced funding while providing the level of community service our residents expect.
- It ties our hands when it comes to solving the budget problems that flow our way from the state.
- It potentially forces the city to deal only with the Benton County Sheriff's office when seeking security services- threatening the ability to negotiate fair terms for security.

**Statement on
CITY OF FOLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SECURITY PROGRAM DELAYED**

These delays will not reduce law enforcement in Foley.

- The Benton County Sheriff's Department continues to have law enforcement responsibility within the City of Foley.
- The City encourages all residents to call the Benton County Sheriff's Department when the assistance of a licensed peace officer is needed. Residents still need to call 911 for all emergencies in Foley.

What will be delayed?

The action will delay the beginning of the community service activities described in recent communications from the City of Foley. These services include:

- 24 hour patrol of City Parks, buildings and businesses.
- Parking enforcement.
- Crime prevention education services.

Two announced open house events scheduled for January 11 and January 18 will be postponed until the issue is resolved.

Statement from Mayor Gary Gruba:

"In the face of devastating budget cuts, the City of Foley developed a good plan for stepped up community security services for our residents. We have been working on this for many months and, if the Attorney General's office had a legal issue, they should have raised it long ago. The city did its legal research and we believe that the community service officers can perform all of the functions as promised."