



## **MORRISSEY FOR MAYOR CAMPAIGN CALLS ON BLOCK TO END IMMORAL AND UNETHICAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

**Morrissey: “The campaign that Doug Block has waged is an insult to the voters of the City of Rockford.”**

**ROCKFORD, IL (March 31, 2009)** – The Morrissey for Mayor campaign is calling for Doug Block’s campaign to end a series of immoral, unethical and in some cases, illegal tactics. The past two weeks have been punctuated by a series of questionable campaign activities on behalf of Doug Block.

“The citizens of Rockford deserve to hear about the issues, and not be deceived by unethical tactics that contaminate the election,” said Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey. “This type of behavior is not only demeaning to the citizens of Rockford but also calls into question the character, quality and leadership skills of my opponent. How can Mr. Block demand respect and a leadership role when his campaign has been filled with unscrupulous activities?”

“Doug Block is the head of the Police Union and yet he condones the distribution of a flyer on his behalf that suggest that some laws be ‘overlooked.’” Morrissey continued. “That is in direct conflict with the oath of office that a police officer takes when they are sworn in. I have attended most of the swearing in ceremonies for young police officers. What kind of message does this give to these officers when the head of their Union is suggesting that some laws can be ‘overlooked?’”

Among the recent actions supporting the Block campaign are:

- Obtaining Morrissey for Mayor yard signs under false pretenses and then placing them at an abortion clinic that was not approved to receive the signs. (The Morrissey for Mayor campaign has confirmed that the person who obtained the signage for the abortion clinic is a Doug Block supporter and has a Doug Block for Mayor sign in her front yard, and the owner of the clinic has admitted that he is a Block supporter.)

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- Distributing by mobile phone a text message with a photo and caption of Mayor Morrissey that included a knowingly false, vulgar, and sexually derogatory message intended to harm Mayor Morrissey and his campaign. The messages were disseminated by Doug Block's son, Dan, who is also a significant contributor to the Block campaign.
- Illegally utilizing and mailing out a Wall Street Journal article without permission by the Dow Jones organization and thus violating copyright laws.
- Condoning the distribution of a flyer on his behalf that advocates for relaxing the noise ordinance and "overlooking laws" in direct conflict with the oath of office that police officers take when they are sworn in.
- The Doug Block campaign is running ads that totally distort the facts on truancy. Block suggests Rockford School District 205's chronic truancy rate has not fallen when the article he cites confirms a dramatic drop in the truancy rate under the efforts of Mayor Morrissey and the City's truancy partners.

"We've conducted our campaign with the utmost integrity. We've talked about the issues that are essential to our community: education, roads, crime, economic growth and accountability - and encouraged our opponents to discuss these subjects," said Jim Thacker, campaign manager, Morrissey for Mayor. "The recent activities by the Block campaign demonstrate a pattern of malicious intent and certainly reveal an unique interpretation of what our opponent means by 'Back to Basics.' Our community needs to continue to moving forward and Mr. Block's campaign activities display an obvious disrespect for the voters. The voters deserve better from candidates for office."

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