

Julia R. Rietz
State's Attorney



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**Office of
State's Attorney
Champaign County, Illinois**

February 23, 2016

Chief Anthony Cobb
Champaign Police Department

Re: Officer Matt Rush

Dear Chief Cobb,

As you are aware, I was asked by community members to review Officer Matt Rush's conduct with regards to use of force. The Champaign Police Department provided my office with internal documents detailing Officer Rush's disciplinary history, and I and my staff have thoroughly reviewed those materials as well as additional materials related to those events. We have now completed that review process, and I am sending this letter as confirmation of the conclusions of the State's Attorney's Office.

I am declining to file criminal charges against Officer Rush with regard to his use of force in making arrests that have been the subject of public concern and civil legal action as I and my staff do not find sufficient legal basis to proceed in criminal court. However, my review of Officer Rush's disciplinary history has led me to conclude that the State's Attorney's Office is unable to call Officer Rush as a witness on behalf of the State in criminal proceedings in light of his repeated failure to adequately document use of force and multiple discipline actions for untruthfulness. These incidents create a substantial issue with regards to his credibility as a witness, subject him to cross examination on these issues, and require the State's Attorney's Office to work around him in order to bring criminal cases to trial. Moreover, our review of these incidents cause us great concern about his judgement and decision making in crisis situations, particularly with regard to his response to the mentally ill. In light of these concerns, having given this matter serious consideration and taking into account his full disciplinary history, we have concluded that if Officer Rush were to return to active duty, we will not call Officer Rush as a witness for the prosecution in criminal proceedings.

I appreciate and support your efforts to resolve these matters internally and will continue to be available to work with you as we move forward,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julia Rietz
Champaign County State's Attorney