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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Statement Regarding False Mass Text Message Sent to Residents South Beloit, Illinois — December 3, 2025

The City of South Beloit is aware of a **false and unauthorized mass text message** distributed to members of the community earlier today. The message falsely claimed that residents' lives were at risk due to alleged delays in the South Beloit Fire Department's emergency response times and included a photo of the South Beloit Fire Department.

**This message is entirely untrue.**

At no time were South Beloit residents in danger, and no such concerns regarding the Fire Department's emergency response capabilities have been reported, documented, or presented to City officials. The claims made in the anonymous text message are baseless, misleading, and appear designed to cause unnecessary alarm and fear in the community.

The South Beloit Fire Department continues to meet or exceed national and regional response standards. Our local, dedicated firefighters and EMS personnel, contracted through the Town of Beloit, respond promptly, professionally, and effectively to every call for service. Ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents remains our highest priority.

The City is actively investigating the source of the text message. Disseminating false information to the public—particularly on matters involving safety—undermines public trust and creates unwarranted fear. The City will pursue all appropriate actions once the sender is identified.

Residents are encouraged to:

- **Disregard the false message** and do not forward it.
- **Rely on official City communication channels** for accurate information, including:
  - City of South Beloit website
  - Official social media accounts
  - Public safety press releases
- **Report suspicious mass messages** to City Hall or the South Beloit Police Department.

*"The safety of our residents is our top priority, and the South Beloit Fire Department consistently delivers fast, professional emergency response," said Mayor Tom Fitzgerald "The misinformation spread today is irresponsible, and we will take appropriate steps to ensure the public receives only accurate, verified information."*

For further information, please contact:

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