

The City of North Myrtle Beach is conducting an internal investigation regarding the weapon stolen out of the vehicle of Director of Public Safety William Bailey on Dec. 21, 2009. Through various avenues, including conversations with the Horry County Police Department, the City found that Director Bailey's glove box, in which the weapon was stored, does not have a lock on it. Therefore, the weapon could not have been locked in the glove box as stated yesterday. After conversations with Director Bailey, City administration officials have found that the director misled administration about the storage of his weapon.

"I take full responsibility and regret my actions regarding how the weapon was stored and the statements made by the City to media on December 29 saying the weapon was secured in a locked glove box. I made those statements to administration and approved their release," said Director Bailey.

In lieu of this new information, Director William Bailey will be placed on administrative leave pending the conclusion of the investigation. The nature of any disciplinary action is considered a personnel matter. The City of North Myrtle Beach apologizes for the incorrect information and will be working diligently to correct it and the actions taken by Director Bailey.

John Smithson
City Manager
City of North Myrtle Beach