



Chief Investigation

Reported by: *Sarah Jindra / WCIA 3 NEWS*

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Senator Bill Brady wants an investigation on how the U of I handled the decision to get rid of Chief Illiniwek. He thought the Attorney General's Office was investigating, but now isn't sure it was ever completed. Lisa Madigan's office sent Senator Brady a letter back in May, saying Champaign County State's Attorney Julia Rietz would investigate. But she says she never did. Rietz says right when she got the letter, she called Madigan's office, to pass the issue back. She says it was outside her jurisdiction.

We spoke with several people in Madigan's office to see where the investigation is at now, and that question has yet to be answered. Brady says it's frustrating because the people deserve to know how the decision to ban the chief was made and why it wasn't done in an open forum. "I was waiting patiently for the Champaign County State's Attorney to respond. She failed to do so and until now I didn't know that she referred it back to the Attorney General's Office because neither she nor the attorney general had the courtesy of notifying my office," says Brady.

The University says it made the decision to get off the NCAA's list of schools with "hostile and abusive" mascots. It says it was just complying with the rule, therefore didn't need an official vote. After the fact (and with public pressure) the board did come together and take the official vote. But many want a formal investigation to prove whether that was the correct way for the board to operate.

Brady plans to get back in touch with the Attorney General's Office and see where the investigation stands. As of now, Madigan's office still hasn't got back to us with an answer.