

DODGEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police Brandon Wilhelm

September 15, 2026

Dodgeville Common Council
City of Dodgeville
Dodgeville, Wisconsin

RE: Recommendation to Name New Street "Walter Leigh Way" in Honor of Fallen Dodgeville Police Officer Walter S. Leigh

Dear Mayor and Members of the Dodgeville City Council:

I respectfully submit this letter to recommend that the new street being constructed off Bennett Road, south of the roundabout, be officially named "Walter Leigh Way" in honor of Dodgeville Police Officer Walter S. Leigh, who died in the line of duty while serving the citizens of Dodgeville.

Officer Leigh served with the Dodgeville Police Department for approximately two years before his death on January 29, 1963. Historical accounts indicate that Officer Leigh's death followed a scuffle with two individuals after a traffic stop, during which he sustained significant head trauma and subsequently suffered a fatal heart attack. He is recognized as a fallen officer of the Dodgeville Police Department and remains the department's only officer whose name is memorialized on the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial.

Although more than six decades have passed since his death, the significance of Officer Leigh's service and sacrifice has not diminished. The Dodgeville Police Department continues to uphold its responsibility to protect and serve the community with integrity and compassion. Naming a street in Officer Leigh's honor would provide a permanent and highly visible connection between that mission and the history of the men and women who have served the City of Dodgeville.

I believe "Walter Leigh Way" would be a fitting tribute for several reasons. It would recognize Officer Leigh at a location that will become a lasting part of Dodgeville's future while ensuring that generations of residents are reminded of an officer who gave his life in service to this community. It would also honor Officer Leigh's family and the generations of Dodgeville police officers who have followed him in service to our community. The badge carried by today's officers is connected to those who wore it before them, and recognizing Officer Leigh reinforces our commitment to remembering those who served before us and ensuring that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

I have also had the opportunity to speak with Officer Leigh's two surviving daughters, Brenda Foust and Verna Batchelor, regarding this proposed honor. Both daughters expressed their full approval of the endeavor and were genuinely excited that their father's service and sacrifice would be recognized in this lasting and meaningful way. Their support makes this proposed tribute even more meaningful to the Dodgeville Police Department and, I believe, to the community as a whole.

"To protect and serve, in partnership with our community, through integrity and compassion."

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It is my hope that Walter Leigh Way will serve as more than simply a street name. It will serve as a lasting reminder that, although decades may pass, the sacrifice of an officer who gave his life in service to our community is never forgotten.

For these reasons, I respectfully recommend that the Dodgeville Common Council approve the naming of the new street as “Walter Leigh Way.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon E. Wilhelm

Brandon Wilhelm
Chief of Police
Dodgeville Police Department