



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
JOHN G. KOSANKE, Director
20025 Mack Plaza Drive
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-2397



DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION

awarded to

Lieutenant Detective Bureau Commander Keith Waszak

On February 09, 2024, the department received calls from victims of breaking and entering at the homes of their recently deceased family members. Thus began the tireless efforts of you and Detective Miles Adams as you both became the primary investigators on a case which spanned multiple cities throughout Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. It was discovered that the suspect, who was dubbed as the "Obit Bandit" by the media had been using published obituary notices as a tool for targeting the homes.

You immediately sprang into action with a plan to prevent the burglaries from happening. At one point, you and Detective Adams worked tirelessly for six straight days. The challenging and complex case involved participation from local and state law enforcement partners. The suspect was apprehended on February 27, 2024 by the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team. He was subsequently sentenced to up to ten years in prison after pleading guilty to the crimes.

You are being recognized for your leadership skills, above average alertness, initiative, and teamwork which helped to make the Grosse Pointe Woods community, as well as other area communities, safer places to live.

I agree with the Honors Board's recommendation and am hereby awarding you this Department Commendation. You have represented the City of Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety in the highest tradition and we are proud and honored to have you as a member of our team. Your actions are a credit to your dedication and training, the department, and to the Public Safety profession as a whole. I am authorizing that a copy of this letter be placed in your personnel file.



John G. Kosanke/ Director of Public Safety
City of Grosse Pointe Woods

February 27, 2024