



THORNTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RICHARD WESOLOWSKI, CHIEF OF POLICE

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Subject: Letter of Commendation for Meritorious Service – April 15–17, 2025

Dear Officers Bennett, VerHagen, and Robertson,

This letter recognizes your exemplary performance and professionalism during the recovery and subsequent investigation following the discovery of a deceased individual in the Water Reclamation Thornton Reservoir between April 15 and April 17, 2025.

You handled the situation with exceptional care, ensuring the scene was secured and that evidence was processed with diligence and integrity. Your coordination with the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office and prompt communication with the Manhattan Police Department for the individual's family reflect compassion and respect for the gravity of the incident.

Your calm, focused, and professional response during a tragic and complex investigation exemplifies the core values of law enforcement service. The community and this department are strengthened by your commitment to duty and public trust.

Please accept this Letter of Commendation in recognition of your continued excellence and dedication.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. W.", followed by a horizontal line.

Richard Wesolowski

Chief of Police

Thornton Police Department