



THORNTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

RICHARD WESOLOWSKI, CHIEF OF POLICE

700 Park Avenue • Thornton, IL 60476

Emergency 9-1-1 • Non Emergency (708) 877-2531

Administration (708) 877-4440 • Fax (224) 970-0901

Letter of Commendation for Meritorious Service – April 10, 2025

Dear Officers Leone, Watkins, and Hartell,

I am writing to formally commend your actions on April 10, 2025, during the extensive multi-agency search for a missing and endangered individual in the area of Babe Ruth Field.

Your initiative and professionalism in coordinating the search efforts, including deployment of personnel through wooded areas, railroad tracks, and difficult terrain near the Thornton Quarry, were exceptional. Your close coordination with the South Holland Police Department and numerous regional partners—including drone teams and K-9 units demonstrated outstanding operational awareness, inter-agency cooperation, and tactical discipline.

Despite the high-risk nature of the environment, you upheld the highest standards of safety and investigative thoroughness. Your leadership and perseverance under challenging conditions reflect great credit upon yourselves and the Thornton Police Department.

This letter serves as formal recognition of your meritorious service during the April 10 search operation.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wesolowski".

Richard Wesolowski

Chief of Police

Thornton Police Department