



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

Life Saving Recognition

Presented to Officer VerHagen

Date: June 30, 2025

Dear Officer Brent VerHagen,

It is with great pride and sincere appreciation that I recognize your swift and decisive actions during a critical incident that occurred on the morning of June 30, 2025.

At approximately 9:11 a.m., the Thornton Police Department responded to a report of a shooting near Schwab Street and Margaret Street. Upon arrival, you encountered a vehicle with two occupants, a male driver suffering from a serious gunshot wound to the upper thigh, and a female passenger who was visibly shaken but unharmed.

Without hesitation, you assessed the male victim's condition and immediately applied a tourniquet to his leg, effectively controlling significant arterial bleeding. Your actions demonstrated exceptional composure, training, and a commitment to preserving life under extreme pressure.

Thanks to your quick response and medical intervention, the victim was stabilized and safely transported by the Thornton Fire Department Paramedics to Christ Hospital for further treatment. It is without question that your actions contributed directly to saving this individual's life.

Your performance on that day is a testament to your dedication to duty and to the values of the Thornton Police Department. You exemplify the professionalism, courage, and compassion expected of law enforcement officers in service to their community.

Please accept this Life Saving Pin as a formal acknowledgment of your heroism and commendable service.

With deepest respect and gratitude,


Richard Wesolowski

Chief of Police

Thornton Police Department