
May 23, 2016

James E. Held
Chief of Police
Lake Forest Police Department
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Lake Forest, IL 60045

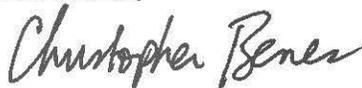
Chief Held:

I'm writing to bring to your attention to the superb job Commander Michael Lange, Officer Brett Marquette, and all the officers and lecturers did in the Spring 2016 Citizen's Police Academy in which I participated. Thank you for conducting such a program. It brings transparency to our community's police work, creates a deep appreciation and understanding of the myriad of challenges police officers face in the line of duty, and fosters a feeling of empathy for the work the officers do.

The program was well organized and run and every night was packed full of interesting and relevant content. Command Lange and Officer Marquette displayed close attention to detail and truly cared about maximizing the quality of the participant experience by fostering an engaging and interactive environment. The ride-alongs I went on with Officer Signa and Esmons provided me with keen insight into police work first hand. These officers should also be commended for making this experience enjoyable and informative by allowing a stranger to accompany them while they did their job.

Through my participation in the program, I observed first hand the dedication to service displayed by the officers of the Lake Forest Police Department and the value you and your fellow officers provide, consistently, to our community. It is truly appreciated by myself, my wife, my young son Augustus, and my neighbors. We feel very fortunate to be living in Lake Forest. Thank you for making our community safe and enjoyable.

With thanks,



Christopher Benes

CC: Officer Brett Marquette
Commander Michael Lange