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Orland Park's Chief Tim McCarthy Named Illinois Police Chief of the Year



Orland Park Police Chief Timothy McCarthy has been named the first recipient of the Chief of the Year Award by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. The award, to be given for the first time this year, is for leadership in law enforcement, leadership in his own police department and service to the association.

"This is a tremendous honor both for Chief McCarthy and for the Orland Park Police Department," said Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "We are very proud of all that the chief has accomplished during his time with Orland Park and it's fitting that his peers think so too."

McCarthy will receive the award April 22 during the association's annual awards banquet in Schaumburg. He was selected by the association's board of officers from a very strong pool of nominations from different parts of Illinois.

"Many of us have known and worked with Tim on local and statewide initiatives and we recognize him as an innovative leader who has done so much for law enforcement," said Chief Frank Kaminski of the Park Ridge Police Department, ILACP president.

McCarthy began his law enforcement career in 1972 when he was appointed an agent with the United States Secret Service. Early in his career, McCarthy did investigative work while assigned to the Chicago Field Office.

In 1979 he was reassigned to the Presidential Protection Division in Washington, D.C. On March 31, 1981, McCarthy distinguished himself while protecting President Ronald Reagan when he was shot in the line of duty during an assassination attempt. McCarthy recovered from serious injuries and returned to work. He was promoted to several supervisory positions prior to retiring in 1993 as the Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Field Office.

McCarthy was named chief of police for the Village of Orland Park in 1994.

"The Orland Park Police Department is recognized as a professional organization that has kept pace with change," wrote Orland Park Deputy Chief Thomas Kenealy in nominating McCarthy. "McCarthy has accomplished this through training, professional development, networking, community engagement and technological enhancement."

In its announcement, the association noted a number of the chief's accomplishments, including his lobbying on law enforcement issues, helping to establish the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, automating the Orland Park Police Department, overseeing construction of the nation's first LEED Gold certified police station, implemented a number of community policing initiatives, promoting crisis intervention training for officers and the use of NARCAN to help save those overdosing on heroin.

McCarthy and the Orland Park Police Department have been actively involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and fundraising for Illinois Special Olympics and the Orland Park Police Department was the first municipal police agency to receive a certificate of authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration for the use of a drone.

"The Orland Park Police Department has always been on the forefront for innovative programming with Chief McCarthy and his administration always looking for ways to better the department and better serve the Orland Park community," McLaughlin said. "Being honored by the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs is a testament to all of the successful programs and initiatives that the Orland Park Police Department has implemented."

"Chief McCarthy holds himself to a high standard, always striving to do better," said Orland Park Village Trustee Dan Calandriello, chair of the village's Public Safety Committee. "Whether it's through law enforcement innovations, police methods, training or community policing, Chief McCarthy reflects what leaders in law enforcement should be."

This year, 2016, marks the 75th anniversary of the police chiefs' association.

"We have identified five major accomplishments in our long history, and it's interesting that McCarthy has been deeply involved in three of them: legislative advocacy, the Special Olympics, and professional development in law enforcement," said Ed Wojcicki of Springfield, the ILACP executive director. "He has created an atmosphere in Orland Park in which training is seen as essential for his own officers so that they can make their own community safer, and by doing that, McCarthy has become an example for all other police departments in Illinois."

McCarthy holds a master's degree in criminal justice/social justice from Lewis University and received his bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is married and has three children.