



# *Kronenwetter Police Department*

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Daniel Joling  
*CHIEF OF POLICE*

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## LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Officer: Officer Andrew Zortman

Type of Incident: Sexual Assault of a Child

Submitted By: Lieutenant Terry McHugh

### SYNOPSIS OF EVENT

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, Officer Zortman teamed up with Marathon County Social Services to begin an investigation into the sexual assault of a 12 year old child. In addition, it was reported to Officer Zortman that the mother's boyfriend was the suspect. After conducting an interview with the victim, Officer Zortman continued with his investigation, which ultimately led to a confession and the subsequent arrest of the suspect. This investigation was extremely lengthy and time consuming; Officer Zortman continued to follow up on details for several weeks after the initial complaint and his investigation led him to make contact and speak with no less than 13 different people.

For obvious reasons, crimes against children cases are exceptionally difficult cases to work. For starters, they require an extensive amount of time and resources in order to fully investigate the crime. Secondly, they necessitate a high level of tact and professionalism on the part of the investigating officer. Lastly, they exact an emotional toll on the officer assigned, particularly if the officer has young children.

When officer Zortman investigated this heinous crime, he faced the difficult task of professionally and compassionately explaining the situation to a mother who was in denial. Throughout this investigation, Officer Zortman never lost his diplomatic and patient approach with the victim's mother and he worked with her extensively and assisted her in coping with the situation.

Crimes such as these are difficult to investigate, even for some of the most seasoned officers and investigators. Officer Zortman maintained his focus and kept his personal feelings out of the investigation. Furthermore, he remained steadfast in pursuit of his goal, which was to bring justice to a 12 year old girl who was the victim of an unspeakable crime. Officer Zortman's hard work and professionalism on this case reflect great credit on himself, the Kronenwetter Police Department, and law enforcement as a whole.

*Daniel L. Joling*  
Chief of Police

