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For immediate release

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Orland Park's Tim McCarthy named Illinois' Chief of the Year for 2016

SPRINGFIELD – Chief Timothy McCarthy of Orland Park 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.

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, who is the 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 has been chief in Orland Park since 1994. "The Orland Park Police Department is recognized as a professional organization that has kept pace with change," wrote Deputy Chief Thomas Kenealy in nominating McCarthy for the award. "McCarthy has accomplished this through training, professional development, networking, community engagement and technological enhancement."

Among McCarthy's accomplishments cited by the association:

- He chaired the association's Legislative Committee and regularly traveled to Springfield to lobby on law enforcement issues.

- He had a significant role in establishing the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, one of the first multi-jurisdictional homicide task forces in the area.
- He automated the Orland Park Police Department with laptops when most departments had older equipment
- He equipped all police cars with in-car camera systems more than 16 years ago.
- He obtained authorization for a new police station acting as a project manager during construction; building the first L.E.E.D. Gold (green building) police station in the U.S.
- He implemented several community policing initiatives including: Trailers in the Park, Walk and Talk and Bike Patrol, and he recently moderated a discussion regarding the Illinois Police and Community Relations Improvement Act.
- After the Tinley Park mental health facility closed and mental health problems became a bigger issue in Orland Park, McCarthy and the department promoted Crisis Intervention Training for officers so that they could intervene more effectively with people having mental health issues.
- Similarly, McCarthy and other local leaders recognized the growing heroin problem in the suburbs and trained and equipped all of his officers with NARCAN, which is used to help save the lives of people who have overdosed on heroin.
- McCarthy has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Bike Ride to benefit the Special Olympics.
- In 2015 Orland Park became the first municipal police department to receive a Certificate of Authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration for the use of an unmanned aircraft (drone).

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 graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in finance and received his master's degree in criminal / social justice from Lewis University in 1999. Chief McCarthy is married and has three children.