

Investigator Richard Belcher #154
Oak Forest Police Department
15440 South Central Avenue
Oak Forest, IL 60452

December 30, 2010

COMMENDATION

On May 31, 2009 the Oak Forest Police Department was called to Alameda drive on a call of a missing person with suspicious circumstances. The children of Alma Rodriguez wanted to report her missing and they feared that her husband, Norberto Rodriguez, had something to do with her disappearance. The entire Investigations Division from the Oak Forest Police Department and the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force launched an intense investigation. The next day Irma Rodriguez body was found in her car in Midlothian. The investigation found that she had been murdered in the garage on Alameda.

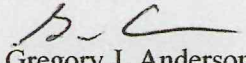
As with many homicide cases, evidence and information began to become scarce over a period of time. As the primary investigator on the case, you continued the investigation and followed up on every lead and detail. This involved drawing in investigative resources and contacts that you had developed. In addition, you kept in constant contact with the family and kept them apprised of the situation. When I spoke with the family, they commented on your contacts with them and how appreciative they were that informed of the ongoing status of the investigation. You also coordinated meetings with the family and the States Attorney's office as the investigation continued. Demonstrating tenacity and covering every facet of the investigation, in November 2010 homicide charges were authorized against Norberto Rodriguez.

Not only did you demonstrate outstanding individual performance on this investigation, but the entire Investigations Division and the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force showed how teamwork in a complicated and difficult investigation can lead to a successful conclusion. This dedication to the victims of crime and to our residents, demonstrates commitment to the Oak Forest Police Department mission statement which in part reads:

The mission of the Oak Forest Police Department is to improve the quality of life for all who live in, work in, or who visit our community by delivering professional, effective police services. Members of the Oak Forest Police Department are dedicated to accomplishing the mission by the following:

1. Identification of criminal activity, the pursuit and apprehension of criminal offenders, and to promote the prosecution of known offenders.

I am commending you for your actions and would like to thank you for a job well done!


Gregory J. Anderson
Chief of Police