



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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March 20, 2013

Via Fax: 202.737.3405

Hard copy to follow via United States Mail

Craig W. Floyd
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
901 E. Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20004-2025

Dear Chairman Floyd:

On Christmas Eve 2012, City of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Police Officer Jennifer Sebens, while on active duty, died from multiple gunshot wounds to her head and face. Her husband stands charged with her murder.

Local media has reported that The National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund made an initial decision not to include Officer Sebens's name on the Memorial. Your organization apparently referred to her death as "an incident of domestic violence," not a line of duty death.

I strongly disagree that Officer Sebens's death was not in the line of duty. I strongly disagree with any suggestion that a line of duty death cannot result from an incident of domestic violence. For these reasons, I also disagree with the decision not to include Officer Sebens on the Memorial.

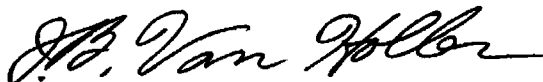
Officer Sebens died in uniform, during her scheduled duty shift and while on patrol. Using the definitions adopted and promulgated by your organization, *see* http://www.nleomf.org/assets/pdfs/criteriaforinclusion_2010.pdf, she died while performing her statutorily authorized duties, consistent with the terms and conditions of her employment. She died in the line of duty, "as a direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty."

I do not believe that your organization intended, by its decision, to deprecate Officer Sebens's professional sacrifice. Nor do I believe that you intended to convey the impression that crimes related to domestic violence weigh less heavily in the community, or in the eyes of professional law enforcement officers. However, as your decision now stands, it does just that.

I understand you have scheduled a meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013, to reconsider your organization's decision. As Wisconsin's chief law enforcement officer, and on behalf of our law enforcement community, I strongly encourage you to reverse your present position and include Officer Sebens on the Memorial. By doing so, you will not only honor her, but also honor those who will appear with her on the Memorial.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.B. Van Hollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J.B. VAN HOLLEN
Attorney General

JBV: pss

cc: Chief Barry M. Weber - City of Wauwatosa Police Department
Chief Steve Riffel, President - Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association (WCPA)
Deputy Sheriff Kevin Sorenson, President - Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA)