

CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTION

Detective Erik Whitlock City of North Richland Hills

WHEREAS, in 2014, Detective Erik Whitlock was assigned a ten-year-old cold case in the nonfatal shooting of North Richland Hills Police Officer Jeff Garner as he was attempting to conduct a traffic stop; and

WHEREAS Det. Whitlock discovered the driver in the traffic stop had robbed a bank in a nearby city and identified six similar bank robberies over a span of five years and believed that if he could solve any of these, then he could identify the driver who had shot Officer Garner in 2003; and

WHEREAS, with advanced forensic analysis technology, Detective Whitlock developed a promising lead and coordinated with federal and local agencies to accumulate evidence leading to search warrants for the suspect's home, vehicle, as well as a previously owned vehicle; and

WHEREAS, upon execution of the warrants, it was shown the previously owned vehicle was the same SUV the suspect had been driving in 2003, and a gun was located, which was determined to be the same weapon that had been used to shoot Officer Garner; and

WHEREAS Detective Whitlock secured a total of four state and federal arrest warrants for the suspect for the offenses, including one for Attempted Capital Murder of Officer Jeff Garner, but it was discovered the suspect committed suicide rather than face justice for his criminal actions; and

WHEREAS Detective Whitlock was recently recognized by the Department of Justice for his determination and innovative investigative techniques that brought resolution to Officer Jeff Garner as well as the victims of seven bank robberies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, congratulate Detective Erik Whitlock for his dedication to service and join the City of North Richland Hills in extending our gratitude to him for his commitment to justice and his work in making this great County a safer place for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of Tarrant County to be affixed this 18th day of July 2023.