



## PRESS RELEASE

### Officer Death- Sergeant Joseph Ipavec – Elm Grove Wisconsin

The members of the Elm Grove Police Department and dispatch staff are saddened to share the news that Sgt. Joseph (Joe) Ipavec took his life, at the Elm Grove Police Department, in the early morning hours of Monday, November 25, 2019.

Sgt. Ipavec was a 19 year veteran of the agency. He was a leader in our department and in our community, mentoring new officers as a Field Training Officer (FTO), certified firearms instructor, and representing the agency as the Citizen Police Academy's departmental liaison. He was a state licensed Emergency Medical Technician and a 2014 graduate of Northwestern University's Police Staff and Command. He was an officer of exceptional performance and was, most notably, commended for his actions that, without question, saved many lives, during the Villager Apartments fire, in October of 2000.

We are heartbroken at the loss of our dedicated co-worker and friend. His family and two young children are in our thoughts and prayers.

The West Allis Police Department continues to conduct an investigation into this tragic event.

All members of the Elm Grove Police Department and dispatch staff thank the members of the Elm Grove community for their patience and understanding while we adjust to this tragic loss. We are additionally thankful for the outpouring of support from our fellow law enforcement communities that responded at a moment's notice to assist our officers, during this critical incident, and to help us over the long term, pursue a path of wellbeing.

All future media inquiries may be directed to, Assistant Chief Jason Hennen, at [jhennen@elmgrovi.org](mailto:jhennen@elmgrovi.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Gage".

James P. Gage  
Chief of Police