

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



April 16, 2018

The Honorable Triston Cole
Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Cole:

I apologize for being unable to attend the hearing in House Transportation and Infrastructure to be able to give testimony on House Bill 5672, which will honor fallen Deputy Eric Overall by renaming part of M-15 in Oakland County.

Our agency is forever changed by the events which occurred in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving on November 23, 2018. During the incident, a Lapeer County Deputy called ahead during the pursuit and requested that the Oakland County Sheriff's Office deploy "stop sticks". Lapeer Deputies stayed back some distance as stop sticks were deployed by Deputy Overall at the intersection of Seymour Lake Road and M-15 (Ortonville Road). Once the stop sticks were deployed, Overall backed off the roadway into a grassy area. The responsible driver, upon seeing Deputy Overall, immediately turned his vehicle 90 degrees and purposely drove toward Deputy Overall, striking and killing him.

After the suspect vehicle left the roadway crashing into a swampy area, Deputies approached the vehicle removing Mr. Berak from the driver seat. The Deputies did not know at the time that Deputy Overall had been struck. After several seconds, Deputy Overall's partner realized he was not standing with them and they began looking for him finding him trapped underneath the driver side of the responsible's vehicle. Deputies then lifted and pushed the car over on its side removing Deputy Overall from beneath the vehicle. Deputies began administering life saving measures until medical personnel arrived. Deputy Overall was transported to the hospital and pronounced deceased at the time of arrival.

Deputy Overall was 50 years old and was a 22 year veteran of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. He was assigned to the Brandon Township Substation working the midnight shift. He also served as the Brandon School District Resource Officer. The responsible, Christopher Berak, has been bound over to the 6th Circuit Court and charged with First Degree Murder and with one count of Murder of a Police Officer. Deputy Overall is survived by his wife Sonja and his son Kenneth Overall. He is preceded in death by his late son, Cameron.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office will forever honor this dedicated, gracious, and devoted man for his impact on our agency, the students of Brandon schools, and his wonderful family. Deputy Overall was known for his mantra of 'Never Quit' and his words have left their mark on all of us and his legacy continues to follow us each and every day.

I graciously thank Representative Jim Tedder for introducing this bill to honor our fallen hero. I appreciate your support on this matter and thank those who reached out to our agency during this tragic incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Bouchard".

Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard
Oakland County Sheriff

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