

## United States Senate

August 26th, 2022

Mr. Greg Joy  
810 7th St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20531

Re: Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor

Dear Mr. Joy,

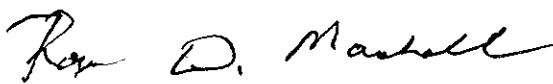
We write to you today to express our support for the application for Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor from The City of Olathe Police for School Resource Officer Erik Clark. My office is working with the City of Olathe Police to reward and decorate School Resource officer Clark, who heroically stepped in the line of fire to halt what could have been a tragic and horrific mass school shooting.

On March 4, 2022 Officer Erik Clark was called into the Olathe East High School's Assistant Principal's office on suspicion of a student carrying a gun into school. An assistant principal asked the student for his backpack, at which point the student refused and pulled out a gun firing shots at those in the room. School Resource Officer Clark was shot four times by the gunman at close range, but returned fire and shot the suspect two times in a quick and hostile confrontation in the assistant principal's office. Just within the last month Johnson County, Kansas District Attorney Steve Howe ruled that the shooting at Olathe East High School was justified and the actions of Officer Clark and will not face any possible charges. Officer Clark is a true hero in every sense of the word.

The City of Olathe Police's application will help bring to light to the heroic duty of School resource officer Clark and to those that help defend and keep safe the lives within our schools and communities. Now more than ever it is important to show appreciation and gratitude to those individuals who are willing to step into the line of fire and defend our students. Police retention and appreciation is something that we must all strive for in the current times and challenges facing the nation. Our community safety must remain at the top of our public service agenda.

We urge you to consider the City of Olathe's Police Department application for the Medal of Valor to be rewarded to SRO Clark. Our office stands ready to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely



Senator Roger Marshall MD