



April 15, 2025

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter as requested by the Village of Orland Park. I have been in contact with Sue Koleno with the goal of organizing an honor run for fallen Illinois State Trooper Clay Carns in conjunction with State Police and Orland Park PD. We are honored to be able to do this run in Orland Park, the hometown of Trooper Clay Carns. Running4Heroes, a non-profit organization was founded by a 10 year old boy in 2019. The mission of this organization is to honor first responders who make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to serve and protect. To date, over 1,900 miles have been conducted by youth runners across the United States to honor these fallen heroes. My son Zachary is one of eight youth runners representing this amazing organization and to date has run 45 miles to honor our fallen. These runners carry a flag on a 1-mile run to pay tribute and honor the fallen. At the conclusion of the run, the flag is folded and presented to the Department or family of the hero.

These runs are an important way to give back to these families who have lost so much. Our organization relies solely on donations to be able to carry these flags and mail them to the families of the fallen. We have additionally been able to provide a significant amount of grant funds to the families as well. I am writing this letter as requested to waive the \$300 fee that is requested to use the park path in Centennial Park.

Zachary will be running a course on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> accompanied by Illinois State Police, Orland Park PD and any other public who would like to come and show their support. On behalf of Running4Heroes, we appreciate being able to work with the Village of Orland Park to show honor and support of fallen Illinois State Trooper Clay Carns. We believe this is an incredible way to give back and to the community and his family.

More information on our organization can be found at <https://running4heroes.org/> and our Facebook page at Running4Heros Inc. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sherese Pruss on behalf of Running4Heroes

Cell: (815) 690-0800