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## HILLSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### ***PRESS RELEASE FOR ALL NEWS MEDIA – 2/27/2010***

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*For Immediate Release:*

Hillsdale Police Chief Chip Stalter wishes to announce that on Saturday, February 27, 2010, shortly before 10 a.m., the body of the previously-reported missing Hillsdale resident was located.

Brian Collier, 53, was reported missing to the Hillsdale Police Department on Friday, February 26, 2010. Mr. Collier began his law enforcement career with the Hillsdale Police Department and went on to become a highly respected special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Upon retiring from the DEA, he served as Director of the Edison Township Police Department until 2009.

A missing person investigation was opened and searches were conducted throughout the day on Friday, but yielded no results. With assistance from surrounding police agencies; the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor John L. Molinelli; the Bergen County Rapid Deployment Force, under the direction of Police Chief Michael Saudino; the Bergen County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Leo McGuire; the Bergen County Police Department, under the direction of Captain Uwe Malakas; the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes; and the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Acting Administrator Michele Leonhart; an extensive search operation was undertaken on Saturday morning.

As a result, the body of Brian Collier was discovered by search personnel in a secluded, undeveloped section of Wood Dale County Park at approximately 9:50 a.m. Preliminary investigation suggests that the manner of death was suicide.

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Chief of Detectives Steven Cucciniello, has opened an investigation into Mr. Collier's death. Furthermore, the Bergen County Medical Examiner Office, under the direction of Mary Ann Clayton, MD, will conduct an inquest.

Chief Chip Stalter, along with the men and women of the Hillsdale Police Department, offer their deepest condolences to the family of Brian Collier. The Hillsdale Police Department joins the many members of New Jersey's law enforcement agencies who are mourning this loss. Additionally, Chief Stalter would like to recognize the efforts of the search personnel who were assembled from the aforementioned police agencies.

While this investigation continues, no additional details may be released.

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*The origin of the Hillsdale Police Department dates back to as early as 1898, when a single constable patrolled the town. The first regular police department for the borough was incorporated in 1921. Currently, the Hillsdale Police Department is under the direction of Police Chief Chip Stalter, with a complement of 20 police officers who range in assignment and rank. From Patrol Officers and Detectives, to School Resource and D.A.R.E. Officers, the Hillsdale Police Department has an affirmative organizational focus on community-oriented policing strategies. 365 days per year, Hillsdale Police Officers serve almost 11,000 residents; they patrol 54 linear miles of consecutive streets under their jurisdiction; and they respond to nearly 14,000 calls, requests or referrals from the public annually.*