



JAMES W. McMAHON
SUPERINTENDENT

**NEW YORK STATE POLICE
BUILDING 22
1220 WASHINGTON AVE.
ALBANY, N. Y. 12226-2252**

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

November 16, 2001

Mr. Steven M. Kelley
Investigator
New York State Police
Special Investigations Unit
1099 Jay Street
Rochester, New York 14611

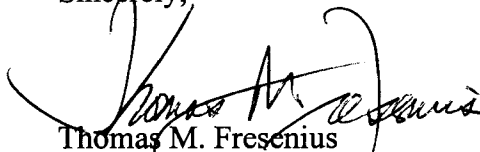
Dear Mr. ^{Steve}Kelley:

In November of 2000, the Rochester Auto Theft Unit of the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit commenced an investigation into the true identity of a vehicle impounded on vehicle and traffic charges by Troop "E", SP Rochester. A subsequent examination of the impounded vehicle revealed that the VIN had been switched and the vehicle was an active File 1 from Troop "E", SP Williamson

As a result of the investigation conducted by your unit over the past year, 26 stolen vehicles have been recovered. Those vehicles, with a total value of approximately \$200,000, were stolen from the Troop "E" area, with a heavy concentration of the thefts from the Rochester area. The perpetrators concentrated on stealing unregistered "trade-in" vehicles from auto dealer lots. The subjects would "re-tag" the vehicles with VIN plates from "donor" vehicles. Then, the vehicles would be sold to mostly unwitting buyers.

Your investigative efforts culminated in the arrest and conviction of three subjects on stolen property charges. In fact, two of the subjects have been sentenced to state prison terms of three to four years. Your exceptional performance in this investigation is hereby commended. The determination and perseverance demonstrated by you throughout the course of this lengthy investigation is recognized and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Thomas M. Fresenius
Captain
Special Investigations Unit