



City of Ithaca Police Department
120 East Clinton Street, Ithaca, New York, USA 14851-6557

John R. Barber, Chief of Police
Pete Tyler, Deputy Chief of Police
Vincent P. Monticello, Deputy Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

Prepared by: Officer Jamie Williamson	Date Prepared: September 2, 2016
Type of Incident: Ceremony for 9-year old Honorary Ithaca Police Officer	
Date and Time of Event: September 12, 2016 1:30 am	
Location of Event: Stewart Park – Large Pavilion	

Earlier this summer at the Ithaca Police & Community Barbecue, Chief John R. Barber was introduced to Ithaca residents Ian Hayward and Tamika Toland, and their children Aidan and Colin. Colin is 9 years old and his dream is to become a police officer. Colin has also been battling brain cancer for the majority of his young life.

Colin Hayward Toland is a bright and funny nine-year-old boy who loves being with his family and playing video games, especially Minecraft, and is looking forward to the start of fourth grade at Northeast Elementary. When Colin turned two his family discovered he had a malignant brain tumor, ependymoma, and embarked on a full year of treatment to remove and treat the tumor. In the course of treatment, he lost the ability to eat, speak and walk as well as other deficits that still affect him today. However, after four months of intense chemotherapy, three brain surgeries to remove tumor and radiation, Colin started recovering many of his lost abilities and eventually entered kindergarten at Northeast.

In January 2015, Colin's cancer returned with no clear path for a curative treatment. He has had three more brain surgeries to remove the tumor and gone through numerous treatments, most recently surgery followed by radiation of the brain and spine at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. He and his family have traveled to Augusta, GA, Boston, MA, Dallas, TX, Rochester, NY, and Memphis, TN for treatment since his relapse, always returning home to Ithaca.

Chief Barber is pleased to announce that Colin's dream of becoming a police officer is going to come true! On September 12th at 11:30 am Colin will be sworn in as an Honorary Police Officer for the Ithaca Police Department. The ceremony will take place at Stewart Park on the shores of Cayuga Lake. Colin's custom uniform and custom badge have arrived, and the final pieces of the ceremony have been planned.

Please join Chief Barber, Mayor Svante Myrick and many local law enforcement officers at Colin's swearing-in ceremony. A large contingent of police departments in the region have promised to join us in making September 12th a day that Colin and his family will never forget. This ceremony is open to the general public, and members of the media are encouraged to attend. A media pool has been established and space will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Though Colin has been through so much—perhaps in part because of it—he has always wanted to help people and contribute to his community. This summer, he decided that he wanted to become a police officer, and he is very excited to start his new career, which he plans on balancing with his continued studies at Northeast Elementary School.