



Marty Kelly
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To: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners
Goodhue County Administrator Scott Arneson

From: Sheriff Marty Kelly

Date: November 3, 2026

Subject: Recognition of Emergency Management Director Earl Merchlewitz

I would like to formally recognize Goodhue County Emergency Management Director Earl Merchlewitz for his outstanding achievements and contributions to emergency management.

Last month, Earl was awarded the Minnesota Emergency Management Director of the Year Award by the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers.

This prestigious statewide recognition reflects Earl's leadership, dedication, and commitment to emergency preparedness. Earl played a key role in the Minnesota School Mapping Project, an initiative that will benefit schools, first responders, and communities throughout Goodhue County and across Minnesota for years to come.

Earl is exactly the type of employee and leader we are fortunate to have within the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office. He sees the bigger picture, brings people together, and consistently goes above and beyond to get the job done. He does not seek recognition, but his hard work and dedication continue to make our county better prepared and our communities safer.

Chief Deputy Huneke, Captain Steffen, and I could not be more proud of Earl and this well-deserved recognition. He sets an outstanding example of what emergency management leadership should look like: steady, practical, committed, and always prepared.

Please join me in congratulating Earl Merchlewitz on being named Minnesota Emergency Management Director of the Year.

Marty Kelly
Goodhue County Sheriff

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