

Sponsored by: Joe Brazil, John White

Resolution No. 19-04

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE ST. CHARLES COUNTY POLICE AND OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENTS, SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS, AND RESPONDERS IN THE REGIONAL AREA

WHEREAS, law and order in any community must be a collaboration between the citizens of that community, the police and prosecutors they employ; and

WHEREAS, policing in American communities is a stressful, highly technical vocation in which officers know that their every public interaction is subject to being photographed or filmed and subject to public and media scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, the public often draws conclusions regarding an officer's actions without the appropriate awareness of the circumstances of the incident; and

WHEREAS, recent studies by the Manhattan Institute and others have warned that crime will begin to rise as officers become less willing to initiate a contact with the public; and

WHEREAS, police officers must have the support of their community and elected leaders to do their job effectively; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2015, at a strategy session called by the Department of Justice with the nation's senior law enforcement chiefs and mayors, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel told Attorney General Loretta Lynch that his officers were "fetal": "They have pulled back from the ability to interdict," he said. "They don't want to be a news story themselves, they don't want their career ended early, and it's having an impact."; and

WHEREAS, “The challenge going forward,” New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton said, “is to keep it in balance so that our officers feel that as we ask them to go forward that if they, in fact, do the right thing, we will be supportive.”; and

WHEREAS, increases in crime occurring as a result of police disengagement will be stemmed only by a clear message to police that when they do the right thing, they will be supported by the citizen community, police leadership, prosecutors and the elected officials of the county; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent data (2018) reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 106 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty in the United States and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, St. Charles County is part of the larger St. Louis Region; and the St. Charles County Council wants to recognize and show support for law enforcement officers throughout the St. Louis Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The County Council of St. Charles calls upon the governing bodies and prosecutors of the St. Louis Region to express their support for the police officers who are daily on their job, “doing the right thing” in supporting the safe and law-abiding citizens of their community.

Section 2. The Executive Assistant to the County Council is hereby directed to provide this Resolution to the Governing Body of every municipality and political subdivision in St. Charles County and to request that such bodies pass

similar resolutions to ensure that every law enforcement officer in this county knows that he is supported in his efforts to deliver quality public safety services to the citizens and guest of this County.

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DATE PASSED

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL