

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022

**RECOGNIZING** the Cincinnati Police Department Military Liaison Group and the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center as winners of the 2021 L. Anthony Sutin Award for Innovative Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships awarded by the Community Oriented Policing Services, United States Department of Justice.

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS") is honoring the Cincinnati Police Department Military Liaison Group and the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs ("VA") Medical Center for their innovative and impactful work with military veterans; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office, established in 1994, is the federal component of the Department of Justice responsible for advancing community policing nationwide, and the only Department of Justice agency with policing in its name; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office has been the cornerstone of the nation's crime fighting strategy providing grants, a variety of knowledge resource materials, and training and technical assistance, and becoming the go-to organization for law enforcement agencies across the country by continuing to listen to officers in the field and provide the resources that are needed to reduce crime and build trust between law enforcement and the communities served; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office has invested more than \$14 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 135,000 officers; and

WHEREAS, the L. Anthony Sutin Award for Innovative Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships recognizes the efforts of innovative and sustained law enforcement and community partnerships whose unique collaborations have transformed public safety in their communities, and is bestowed on those partnerships where law enforcement is actively engaged with the community in a multifaceted manner that has been sustained over time and has resulted in positive, observable public safety outcomes or advances in public trust; and

WHEREAS, the award is named in memory of Tony Sutin, who served as a founder and Deputy Director of the COPS Office from its creation in 1994 until 1996, also serving as the Principal Deputy to the Associate Attorney General of the United States, as acting Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, before joining the faculty of the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia in 1999, where he quickly became dean and served in that capacity until his untimely death on January 16, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Robert Chapman, Acting Director of the COPS Office, stated that "[c]reative, meaningful partnerships between law enforcement and the community are at the heart of community policing," and "[t]o see how the efforts of individuals determined to help veterans in need has had an impact on an entire state – and possibly the country – shows how community policing can change lives"; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Police Department Military Liaison Group was started by Sergeant Dave Corlett at the direction of Chief of Police Jeffrey Blackwell in 2014 and was modeled after a national veteran peer support group called "Battle in Distress"; and

WHEREAS, about 30 percent of the Cincinnati Police Department's sworn officers are veterans, and those officers involved in CPD's Military Liaison Group are on call 24/7 and can be contacted at any time to help get a safe resolution for both the veteran in crisis and law enforcement on scene; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Police Department Military Liaison Group is not just a model for veteran response programs throughout the state of Ohio, but it also serves as a model for veterans programming throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the program has resulted in long-term, positive changes in the Cincinnati Police Department, the VA Medical Center, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Hamilton County Court System, the Hamilton County Crisis Intervention Training Program, and law enforcement agencies across the state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize the Cincinnati Police Department Military Liaison Group and the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center as Winners of the 2021 L. Anthony Sutin Award for Innovative Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships for their exemplary work with military veterans.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to the Cincinnati Police Military Liaison Group and the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center by the Council Office of Councilmember Scotty Johnson.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Scotty Johnson