

Resolution honoring Police Commissioner Willie E. Burton

Whereas, Willie E. Burton became the youngest Police Commissioner in the country when elected to the Board of Police Commissioners in 2013. He immediately became involved in working with other oversight agencies across the country and took on important committee roles for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement ("NACOLE"), including NACOLE's Newsletter, Finance, and Scholarship Committees; and, as a member of the NACOLE Scholarship Committee he led the efforts to ensure financial assistance to other cities and individuals to attend the Annual NACOLE Conference to support their oversight training and to learn best practices.

Whereas, Commissioner Burton was passionate in representing District 5 and always spoke out for residents in "America's blackest, poorest city" when pushing for quality police reform. His efforts have included better police response time to 911; opposed the unfettered use of technology and surveillance tools based on racial biases or lack of effectiveness, but supported responsible utilization policies by partnering with the American Civil Liberties Union and Detroit Justice Center to create some of the best policies in the nation. At the same time, Commissioner Burton strongly approved body-worn cameras and Project Green Light as important police and crime prevention tools; and led efforts to expand Project Green Light to senior housing and recreation facilities.

Whereas, Many residents participated in his community events which included initiatives to curb gun violence by providing over 5,000 free gun-safety lock giveaways across the city and ensuring gun-safety locks were available at all police precincts with no questions asked. He founded *Walks with Willie* to mobilize public safety efforts, later partnering with Michigan Crime Stoppers to support grieving families. He also created forums on men's physical and mental health, which expanded to partnering with Wayne State University School of Social Work for a Mental Health Task Force. Commissioner Burton launched *Fight Crime GrowJobs* that drew on his experience during a two-year appointment with the Detroit Public Schools Safety Oversight Committee, which since 2014 has helped 700 local businesses create internships and apprenticeships to enhance the development of Detroit youth.

Whereas, Commissioner Burton has been a member on a variety of committees, including those for Budget and Public Relations, during his tenure on the Board. He also has served as chair of the Promotions Appeals Committee and the Policy Committee. He places a high priority on serving Detroit, as shown during his recent competitive campaign for City Council. As Police Commissioner Burton completes his term representing District 5 residents, he remains engaged in community projects for Detroit's progress.

Therefore, be it,

Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners awards this resolution in recognition of the dedicated and diligent service by Police Commissioner Willie E. Burton, whose dedication and commitment to civilian oversight, the City of Detroit, and residents merit our highest regards.

We salute you Commissioner Burton for a job well done and wish you continued success in the future.