

2019 -- H 5891

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE POLICE OFFICER MIKE MATRACIA FOR INSPIRING OTHERS AND CHANGING THE WAY PEOPLE WITH MS AND OTHER DISABILITIES ARE VIEWED, AND HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF PROVIDENCE AND THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, Hull, Edwards, Tobon, and Kislak

Date Introduced: March 21, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Mike Matraccia has been on the job as a Providence Police Officer for more
2 than 28 years. Over the last fourteen years, he has carried out his duties in a motorized wheel
3 chair; and

4 WHEREAS, In late 1997, halfway through his career, Officer Matraccia was diagnosed
5 with a life changing disease after a spinal tap showed multiple sclerosis; and

6 WHEREAS, Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the
7 central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the
8 brain and the body; and

9 WHEREAS, During his first four years on the force, Officer Matraccia had been on street
10 patrol. He then found a calling in community policing, and served as former Mayor Buddy
11 Cianci's driver, as well as working security when Hillary Clinton came to town. Today, he is the
12 go-to guy for student tours, both at headquarters and in schools, and continues his efforts in
13 myriad areas of community service; and

14 WHEREAS, Imbued with the core belief that "people with disabilities have rights, they
15 have aspirations and dreams." Mike became involved in a number of organizations that help
16 people living with disabilities including serving as Vice President of the MS Dream Center in
17 Cranston, and working with Access-RI, ATAP, and IIE. He also started a program at the Police
18 Department where kids and adults with disabilities get to shadow him on the job; and

1 WHEREAS, Mike's positive attitude and perseverance, as well as his efforts on behalf of
2 people living with MS and other disabilities, along with his strong belief that there is nothing
3 better than wearing the uniform of a Providence police officer, have made him an individual truly
4 deserving of our admiration, gratitude, and respect; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
6 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and honors Providence Police Officer Mike Matraccia
7 for inspiring others and changing the way people with MS and other disabilities are viewed, and
8 his service to the people of Providence and the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Providence Police Officer Mike Matraccia.

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