

2021 -- H 6227

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING CENTRAL FALLS POLICE CHIEF, COLONEL ANTHONY ROBERSON, ON  
BEING THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLICE COLONEL IN RHODE ISLAND AND  
THANKING HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF EXEMPLARY AND DISTINGUISHED  
PUBLIC SERVICE

Introduced By: Representatives Biah, Hull, Giraldo, Batista, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,  
Williams, Felix, Kennedy, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: April 13, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Central Falls Police Chief, Colonel Anthony Roberson, began his  
2 distinguished public safety career in 2002, as a Patrol Officer with the Providence Police  
3 Department. During his exemplary and distinguished career with the Police Department, Chief  
4 Roberson served in numerous capacities including as a member of the Patrol Bureau, UCR/IBR  
5 Coordinator, a member of the Neighborhood Response Team Task Force, School Resource  
6 Officer, Sergeant, Commanding Officer of the Records Bureau, Detective in the Youth Service  
7 Division, the Juvenile Hearing Board liaison, and instructed on cultural competency and diversity  
8 for the Police Academy; and

9           WHEREAS, Chief Roberson holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from  
10 Bellevue University, a Master of Science degree from Boston University in Criminal Justice with  
11 a Concentration in Strategic Management, a Post-Master's degree in education and a Doctorate  
12 degree in education. He is also a graduate of the Harvard University Kennedy School of  
13 Executive Education, Cornell University Women in Leadership program, Harvard University  
14 Extension School in Effective Organizational Communication, Roger Williams University  
15 Leadership Development and Organizational Learning in Policing, and is a graduate of the  
16 University of Louisville Southern Police Institute's Chief Executive Law Enforcement Program.  
17 He is also a State certified teacher in Criminal Justice; and

18           WHEREAS, Since becoming the Police Chief of Central Falls in early January, 2021,

1 Chief Roberson has made a positive impact in his short tenure. He implemented several award  
2 winning community policing efforts including the "Handshake Initiative", "Shop with a Cop", the  
3 "Bicycle Summer Safety Program", and the "Leading Ladies Initiative", all of which have  
4 significantly improved relations between the Central Falls Police Department and the surrounding  
5 community. Chief Roberson also plans on being a very visible Police Chief and remaining in  
6 constant contact with the community by visiting schools and community organizations, and  
7 simply walking the streets and getting to interact as much as possible with the people of Central  
8 Falls; and

9 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberson has received numerous accolades throughout his  
10 distinguished public service career. He was the first person in Rhode Island to be selected to  
11 receive the United States Department of Justice Attorney General's Award for Distinguished  
12 Service in Community Policing. He is also the recipient of the Jefferson Award for Public  
13 Service, is an inductee into the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hall of Fame for the City of  
14 Providence, is an awardee of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association for Community  
15 Policing, is a recipient of the NAACP Medgar Evers Award, and the President George H. W.  
16 Bush Point of Light Award, and was selected as one of the "Men Who Make a Difference" by the  
17 Women's Resource Center. Chief Roberson also serves on the Board of Directors for the  
18 Sojourner House, an agency that combats domestic violence, and is also a Board member of the  
19 Paramedic Advisors for Roger Williams University; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
21 honors Central Falls Police Chief, Colonel Anthony Roberson, on being the first African-  
22 American Police Colonel in Rhode Island and thanks him for his many years of exemplary and  
23 distinguished public service, we further extend our sincere best wishes for his future endeavors in  
24 the City of Central Falls; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Colonel Anthony Roberson, Police Chief,  
27 Central Falls.

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