

2014 -- H 7159

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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

**HONORING OFFICER PAUL O'ROURKE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Introduced By: Representatives Hull, Malik, Canario, Carnevale, and Johnston

Date Introduced: January 22, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, To the very good fortune of the residents of Providence, Officer Paul
2 O'Rourke chose to pursue a career in law enforcement after joining the Community Service
3 Officer Program, which consisted of unarmed patrol officers making the rounds of some of the
4 city's high crime neighborhoods and reporting any suspicious activity; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1972, Officer O'Rourke underwent training at the Providence Police
6 Academy to become a Community Protection Officer (CPO), later renamed as the Housing
7 Security Force (HSF); and

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of the next decade, Officer O'Rourke earned the rank of
9 Corporal, the nickname of "Porky," and the respect of his peers and Police command; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1981, Officer O'Rourke was promoted and transferred to the Providence
11 Police Department as a Patrol Officer. He was placed in command of the HSF officers who were
12 later also promoted and transferred to the police department. By 1983, Officer O'Rourke and his
13 partner remained the only two officers assigned to Providence's housing developments; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1985, Officer O'Rourke was involved in a shooting with an armed
15 suspect. He and his partner were transferred to the Providence Police Neighborhood Response
16 Team where he continued to patrol the housing developments until losing partial sight after being
17 shot with a BB-gun while on patrol; and

18 WHEREAS, Dedicated and determined, Officer O'Rourke refused to retire and was
19 eventually back on the Public Housing beat in the city, where he remained until his retirement in

1 January of 2014; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to his on call duties, Officer O'Rourke volunteers and oversees
3 the Providence Canteen, a truck that responds to major fire and events within the city, and plays
4 an important role in building community relations through its Hot Dog Roasts; and

5 WHEREAS, Officer Paul O'Rourke has devoted decades to keeping Providence's housing
6 developments safe. Along the way he earned the trust of the people who reside there, knowledge
7 and expertise that has been adopted by the department, and a panoply of awards, medals, and
8 citations; and

9 WHEREAS, An officer and a gentleman, Officer O'Rourke has served and protected the
10 people of the City of Providence for forty-two years and he is eminently worthy of our emulation
11 and acknowledgement; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes, honors, and thanks Officer Paul O'Rourke for forty-
14 two years of dedicated service with the Providence Police Department. We moreover wish him
15 good health, much happiness, and continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Officer Paul O'Rourke.

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