

Very truly yours,

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adopted by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois

***Aldermen Ariel Reboyras, Pat Dowell, and
Introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel***

The essence, the concept of "community policing" involves bringing the police and ordinary citizens together, in partnership, to prevent crime before it happens, to solve neighborhood problems, and to achieve the common goal of building safer, stronger and better communities in which all residents can thrive and live peaceably and enjoyably with their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Active participation in community life by police officers and community members is essential for community policing to work. As police officers learn more about the problems and concerns of local residents, and affirmatively address the needs of the people they serve, the resulting displays of empathy, compassion and assistance promote the development of mutual respect and trust on both sides, which is critical to good police work and to improving the quality of life in city neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Police Officer Corry Williams (Star #17104) of Chicago's 11th Police District is a shining example of a police officer who has taken the concept of community policing to heart; and

WHEREAS, A police officer for eighteen years in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood, Officer Williams is the owner, operator, and creative mind behind an art gallery there, where, along with a stellar team of artists and staff, Officer Williams provides area residents, and especially students, with the opportunity to experience art in action; and

WHEREAS, Realizing as a young child that he had an interest in art, but also finding that there were no outlets for him to express that interest other than attending an art class in school, Officer Williams established the art gallery in order to encourage art appreciation in his community; to increase understanding about the role of art, and its history and origins, in our society; and to provide local residents, and most especially children and young adults, with a safe haven to learn about art and to pursue their dreams of becoming an artist; and

WHEREAS, Officer Williams has committed his art gallery's resources, programs and facility to the families, youth and community of East Garfield Park and beyond. Through a series of ongoing partnerships

with local high schools, as well as collaboration with not-for-profit organizations, such as After School Matters and Breakthrough Urban Ministries, the gallery hosts "Art Shows" to enable aspiring artists to tell their personal story and to showcase their work. Each year, the gallery sponsors a contest that enables community members to vote on their favorite works of student art via social media; and

WHEREAS, This summer, in an effort to get students excited about art, the art gallery is working with After School Matters to create a "Mosaic Mural" representing peace and love in the community, which will be exhibited on its exterior north wall. The "Mosaic Mural", which will be designed and created by 15 Chicago Public High School students, should nicely complement the existing mural on the gallery's south wall, which was designed by neighborhood children working under the supervision of a local artist; and

WHEREAS, An agent for change in underserved communities, and an inspiration to advocates of community policing, Officer Williams also established a not-for-profit foundation, which is dedicated to enhancing and developing Chicago communities from within by using art, artists and artistry as a platform to educate and uplift; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-sixth day of July , 2017, do hereby applaud Chicago Police Officer Corry Williams for his personal efforts to advance the principles of community policing in his own East Garfield Park neighborhood, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Chicago Police Officer Corry Williams, and placed on permanent record in his personnel file, as a token of our appreciation and esteem.