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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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

**CONGRATULATING CRANSTON POLICE CHIEF COLONEL MICHAEL J. WINQUIST
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE RHODE ISLAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE HALL OF FAME,
CLASS OF 2024**

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Fascia, Handy,
Paplauskas, Chippendale, Bennett, Potter, and McNamara

Date Introduced: February 11, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Cranston Police Chief Michael J. Winquist began his distinguished and
2 exemplary law enforcement career 35 years ago when he became a member of the Rhode Island
3 State Police. For twenty-four years, Chief Winquist served the citizens of Rhode Island as a State
4 Trooper with tireless devotion, abiding integrity, superior crime-solving skills and great courage,
5 retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel/Deputy Superintendent; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout his stellar career with the Rhode Island State Police, Chief
7 Winquist always exhibited strong leadership skills and a tenacious desire to protect the citizens of
8 our State, while working in nearly every Division within the Rhode Island State Police including
9 the Uniform Division, Area Detectives, Narcotics Unit, Providence Police Gang Task Force,
10 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Task Force and Motorcycle Team;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, During his tenure with the Rhode Island State Police, Chief Winquist led
13 many important investigations targeting organized crime groups and activities, which resulted in
14 the arrests of many of those individuals as well as the forfeiture of large assets attained from their
15 criminal activities. Thanks to Chief Winquist, many dangerous criminals have been taken off the
16 streets of Rhode Island, making our neighborhoods much safer in which to live, work and raise a
17 family; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2006, Chief Winquist was tasked with developing the State of Rhode
19 Island's Fusion Center, which still continues to play a vital role in protecting Rhode Island from

1 domestic and international threats by sharing intelligence amongst Federal, State and local law
2 enforcement partners. In recognition of his outstanding work, Chief Winqvist has received
3 numerous commendations and letters of recognition for his exemplary police work; and

4 WHEREAS, Since October 1, 2014, Chief Winqvist has served as the twenty-first Chief
5 of Police of the City of Cranston. Under his leadership, he has introduced numerous successful
6 reforms that have improved public safety in Cranston, and he has been a pioneer in the use of
7 license-reading systems in local law enforcement; and

8 WHEREAS, Chief Winqvist graduated from Roger Williams University with a Bachelor
9 of Science Degree in the Administration of Justice, and a Master of Science Degree in the
10 Administration of Justice from Anna Maria University. Chief Winqvist also graduated from the
11 2012/251st session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Academy in Quantico,
12 Virginia; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Winqvist is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of
14 Police, New England Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Rhode Island Police Chiefs
15 Association, where he currently serves as Secretary on the Executive Board. In 2018, Chief
16 Winqvist was appointed to serve on the Rhode Island Police Officers Commission on Standards
17 and Training, and in 2019 he was appointed to the State of Rhode Island 9-1-1 Advisory
18 Committee. Chief Winqvist also serves on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Rhode
19 Island; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
21 congratulates Cranston Police Chief Michael J. Winqvist on his induction into the Rhode Island
22 Criminal Justice Hall of Fame, Class of 2024. We furthermore thank him for his exemplary
23 thirty-five year law enforcement career protecting the people and property of the State of Rhode
24 Island and the City of Cranston; 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 Cranston Police Chief, Colonel Michael J.
27 Winqvist.

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