
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 333 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, DERMODY, READSHAW, MURT, COHEN,
DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, BAKER, CONKLIN, DRISCOLL, MILLARD,
V. BROWN, VEREB, TAYLOR, DUSH, SONNEY, BROWNLEE, KINSEY,
YOUNGBLOOD, PASHINSKI, THOMAS, DAVIS, BENNINGHOFF, DONATUCCI,
ROEBUCK, SABATINA, WATSON, CALTAGIRONE, PAYNE, MAHONEY,
FARINA, GOODMAN AND D. COSTA, MAY 12, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 12, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Statewide impact of community-oriented policing
2 on public safety in communities across this Commonwealth and
3 acknowledging the role of community-oriented policing in
4 helping law enforcement officials meet the demands and needs
5 of the residents they serve and protect.

6 WHEREAS, Community-oriented policing, or neighborhood-
7 oriented policing, is a strategic approach to law enforcement
8 and represents a change in the way law enforcement agencies in
9 this Commonwealth and nationwide respond to the communities they
10 serve and protect; and

11 WHEREAS, Community-oriented policing is a partnership between
12 police officers and community institutions, including families,
13 schools, neighborhood associations, business owners and other
14 merchants; and

15 WHEREAS, These community institutions partner with police
16 officers in the creation of safe, secure communities; and

17 WHEREAS, While what constitutes community-oriented policing

1 varies across this Commonwealth and the nation, a 2014 study
2 published in the Journal of Experimental Criminology concluded
3 that "community-policing strategies have a positive effect on
4 citizens satisfaction and trust in the police, as well as in the
5 reduction of individuals' perception of disorderly conduct,
6 including drug dealing"; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the many State officials that advocate for
8 community-oriented policing is Captain P. Cram of the
9 Philadelphia Police Department; and

10 WHEREAS, Captain Cram began his career with the Philadelphia
11 Police Department in 1993 and worked his way through the ranks
12 as a patrol officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain; and

13 WHEREAS, Captain Cram was one of the youngest police officers
14 in the Philadelphia Police Department's history to attain the
15 rank of Captain and has served as Captain of both the 26th and
16 25th Police Districts, respectively; and

17 WHEREAS, While serving as commanding officer of the 26th
18 Police District, Captain Cram and his team of police officers
19 worked to eradicate criminal activity in the areas surrounding
20 North Philadelphia's Rainbow de Colores Park, which was commonly
21 referred to at the time as a "playground controlled by drug
22 dealers" because it served as the base of operations for local
23 drug traffickers; and

24 WHEREAS, Since drug traffickers controlled the streets, most
25 community residents were reluctant to venture outside their
26 homes, much less let their children play in the park; and

27 WHEREAS, Captain Cram, the police officers under his command,
28 community leaders and community residents partnered and worked
29 together to rid the park and surrounding neighborhoods of drug-
30 dealing and the resulting criminal activity and were

1 instrumental in making Rainbow de Colores Park what it is today,
2 a place where children come to play on hot summer days, with
3 handball courts, community gardens and solar lighting; and

4 WHEREAS, Captain Cram brought the lessons he learned and his
5 knowledge of community-oriented policing to the neighboring 25th
6 Police District; and

7 WHEREAS, As Commander of the 25th Police District, Captain
8 Cram and the police officers under his command helped organize
9 three community-based groups, whose memberships include block
10 captains, ward leaders and community members; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to organizing community groups, Captain
12 Cram and his fellow police officers held community meetings,
13 knocked on doors, handed out flyers, held regular meetings and
14 worked with residents who attended; and

15 WHEREAS, These community groups and residents partnered with
16 Captain Cram and his command for the express purpose of
17 overcoming distrust, while working to reduce crime and
18 revitalizing their neighborhoods, thereby, achieving the primary
19 goals of community-oriented policing; and

20 WHEREAS, Within most cities and towns across this great
21 Commonwealth, there are individuals who, by virtue of their
22 commitment and dedication to public service, command respect and
23 admiration for their exemplary contributions and service on
24 behalf of others; and

25 WHEREAS, It is the custom of the House of Representatives to
26 recognize and commend those distinguished individuals who devote
27 themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and
28 diligence in providing for the safety and welfare of their
29 communities and the people they swear to serve and protect; and

30 WHEREAS, Captain Michael P. Cram is one such individual; and

1 WHEREAS, Captain Cram's family includes his wife Julia,
2 daughter Victoria and son Michael; and

3 WHEREAS, Captain Cram has 25 years of combined active-duty
4 service in the United States Army and reserve service in the
5 United States Army Reserve, where he serves as a Military Police
6 Captain; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Cram is a veteran of both the Iraq and
8 Afghanistan wars and has completed four overseas deployments;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Captain Cram has unselfishly dedicated his life to
11 protecting the citizens of the City of Philadelphia and his
12 adoption of community-oriented policing as a law enforcement
13 strategy has improved the quality of life in the neighborhoods
14 he serves, proving the effectiveness of community-oriented
15 policing; and

16 WHEREAS, Captain Cram once stated that community residents
17 "are the eyes and ears of the community" and he is "a firm
18 believer that neighbors take back neighborhoods, not the
19 police"; and

20 WHEREAS, According to Captain Cram, community residents
21 "educate us on what's going on in the community and we (police
22 officers) educate them on how the police work and how they can
23 help us better"; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals who commit themselves to public service
25 and who unselfishly dedicate their lives to the preservation of
26 order and the protection of others are worthy and due full
27 praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy
29 proclaimed May 15 as "National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
30 Day" and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as "National

1 Police Week"; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
3 Statewide impact of community-oriented policing on public safety
4 in communities across this Commonwealth and acknowledge the role
5 of community-oriented policing in helping law enforcement
6 officials meet the demands and needs of the residents they serve
7 and protect; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge law
9 enforcement agencies across this Commonwealth to study
10 community-oriented policing as a law enforcement strategy for
11 policing their communities and better satisfy the demands and
12 needs of the citizens they serve; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That during "National Police Week" it is with great
14 and humbled appreciation that this House of Representatives
15 recognize, honor and commend Captain Michael P. Cram of the
16 Philadelphia Police Department for his commitment to community-
17 oriented policing.