
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 625 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, COHEN, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE, VEREB, ROZZI,
BIZZARRO, J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, READSHAW, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN,
MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHWEYER, DIGIROLAMO, KINSEY, THOMAS,
D. PARKER, MAHONEY, DRISCOLL, ROSS, DONATUCCI, BULLOCK,
REGAN, EVERETT AND MCCLINTON, DECEMBER 19, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 19, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Philadelphia Police Deputy Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel
2 for his years of devoted service to Pennsylvania and
3 congratulating him on his retirement.

4 WHEREAS, Kevin J. Bethel is a Deputy Commissioner in charge
5 of patrol operations for the Philadelphia Police Department, the
6 fourth largest police department in the nation with 6,600 sworn
7 personnel; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Bethel oversees 21 Patrol Districts, the
9 Neighborhood Services Unit, the Philadelphia School District
10 Police, the Police Athletic League and the Community Relations
11 Unit; and

12 WHEREAS, Since Mr. Bethel completed the Police Academy in
13 1986, his assignments have included positions with the Patrol
14 Bureau, Special Investigative Bureau, Narcotics Strike Force,
15 Narcotics Field Unit, Narcotics Intelligence Investigative Unit
16 and Internal Affairs Division; and

1 WHEREAS, Prior to his appointment to the position of Deputy
2 Commissioner in 2012, Mr. Bethel served as Commanding Officer of
3 the 17th Police District; and

4 WHEREAS, Upon his promotion, Mr. Bethel requested the
5 position of LGBT liaison, which he performed with distinction,
6 listening to the concerns of the community and implementing
7 Directive 152, which set guidelines for proper police
8 interaction with transgender and gender-nonconforming
9 individuals; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2008, Mr. Bethel received the Philadelphia Daily
11 News Fencil Award, which is bestowed upon a police officer who
12 brings a unique blend of courage, integrity and determination to
13 the job; and

14 WHEREAS, Among his many responsibilities, Mr. Bethel has
15 recently taken a leadership role in the juvenile justice field
16 by serving on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Law
17 and Justice, which was charged with assessing and prioritizing
18 strategies and policies to effectively reform the juvenile
19 justice system; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Bethel regularly lectures on school diversion
21 programs and racial and ethnic disparities at the Center for
22 Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University, in
23 collaboration with the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Bethel participates as a faculty member for the
25 International Association of Chiefs of Police Juvenile Justice
26 Leadership Institute, which annually hosts 30 law enforcement
27 executives across the nation and which offers participating law
28 enforcement executives the tools to improve their agencies'
29 response to juvenile offenders and at-risk youth and to engage
30 in effective collaboration on juvenile justice reform in their

1 communities; and

2 WHEREAS, On February 13, 2015, Mr. Bethel testified before
3 the President's 21st Century Task Force, co-chaired by Police
4 Commissioner Charles Ramsey, and briefed the committee on the
5 need for a concerted effort by law enforcement leaders to
6 address the school-to-prison pipeline across the nation, in
7 order to ensure a bright and more hopeful future for young
8 people across this country; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Bethel will retire in January 2016 after 29
10 years of service to become the first Diana A. Millner Youth
11 Justice Fellow at the Stoneleigh Foundation, which was founded
12 in order to improve the life outcomes of Greater Philadelphia's
13 most vulnerable youth; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor
15 Philadelphia Police Deputy Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel for his
16 years of devoted service to Pennsylvania and congratulate him on
17 his retirement; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
19 Philadelphia Police Deputy Commissioner Kevin J. Bethel.