

RESOLUTION 14 - 2024

RESOLUTION OF THE VALPARAISO CITY COUNCIL COMMENDING THE ACTIONS OF THE PORTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND VALPARAISO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Whereas, on April 25, 2024, the Valparaiso community was shaken by the news of a shooting incident in which officers from the Porter County Sheriff's Office and Valparaiso Police Department encountered gunfire directed at them and were required to respond with deadly force to neutralize the threat to the public.

Whereas, as noted in the Indiana State Police Investigation Report, "As officers engaged with the suspect, the suspect ran west towards Calumet Ave. The suspect shot several times at the officers and at a police vehicle. Officers returned fire as they continued to pursue the suspect. The foot pursuit continued west through an alley to Valparaiso St. where the suspect ran onto the porch of a house and again raised his handgun at the officers. Officers fired their weapons at the suspect, striking him and incapacitating him. Officers handcuffed the suspect and rendered first aid until paramedics arrived on scene."

Whereas, as stated by former Valparaiso Police Chief and current Porter County Sheriff Jeff Balon, "I commend the heroic actions displayed by the police officers of the Porter County Sheriff's Office and the Valparaiso Police Department on April 25, 2024. Their willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect our citizens and to stop further potential danger in our community is a testament to who they are as human beings. I cannot express in words how proud I am of every police officer involved in this tragic event."

Whereas, as stated by Valparaiso Police Chief Andrew McIntyre, "I am grateful for the quick and heroic efforts of the first responders on Thursday, as their actions were brave and prevented additional threats of harm in our community. I am beyond proud of these officers and our entire community during these challenging times."

Whereas, as stated by Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, "I commend our officers for their courageous and selfless actions in preventing what could have been a terribly tragic event. Without hesitation or concern for their own personal safety, they placed themselves in harm's way to protect innocent life. These officers exemplified our high standards of professionalism and training, and are to be highly commended for their bravery and dedication."

Whereas, the actions of Valparaiso Police Department officers reflect a culture of professionalism that includes the initial 2010 accreditation of the Valparaiso Police Department by the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies ("CALEA") and four subsequent reaccreditations with the most recent coming in 2024. CALEA accreditation represents the highest standard in law enforcement with only 14 police agencies accredited in the state of Indiana.

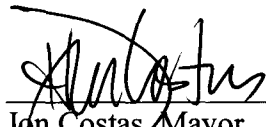
Whereas, the Valparaiso community stands united in our appreciation for all members of law enforcement and other first responders. Their selfless actions reduced further injury and loss of life. By any definition, they are heroes.

Wherefore, Be it resolved as follows:

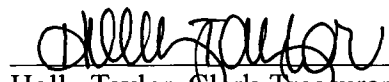
1. The City Council, on behalf of the Valparaiso community, commends the actions of the Porter County Sheriff's Office and Valparaiso Police Department and other first responders as to the events of April 25, 2024.

2. The City Council specifically recognizes the actions of **Captain Brian McDonald**, **Lieutenant Jon Watson** and **Patrol Officer Steven Augustine** of the Valparaiso Police Department and **Patrol Commander Lt. Jason Praschak** and **Patrol Officer Aaron Estrada** of the Porter County Sheriff's Office. Their skill and professionalism that day prevented a greater tragedy from unfolding in our community.

Adopted this 28th day of May, 2024 by a vote of 7-0 with all members present and voting.



Jon Costas, Mayor
ATTEST:



Holly Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer