

GEORGIA PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

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Executive Director



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My fellow law enforcement leaders,

As you are all aware, today is a trying and difficult time to serve as a law enforcement officer. To quote President Roosevelt, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better, the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." Unfortunately, in our world today, the credit often goes to the critic and the result of that is overwhelming stress placed on our most valuable resource, our officers.

When we purchase a new vehicle or some other piece of equipment, we require our officers to perform regular maintenance on that item, we write policy governing the use of that item, we require our officers to demonstrate proficiency with that tool before we allow them to use it. Tools cost money and we have an obligation to use those funds well. We care for and perform preventative maintenance on those items but do we do the same for our most important asset, our people? If we could install a management program or write a policy or implement training that promised to significantly reduce officer suicide, reduce officer misconduct, and provide officers with life skills that added them in every aspect of their personal and professional lives, wouldn't we want to provide that?

The good news is that such a program does exist and many of you are already aware of this program. New Jersey implemented an Officer Resiliency Program state wide and has had great success. I am here to ask you to join me in bringing this program to our state. We have teamed with POAG to put training on with the intent to train 180 Resiliency Trainers who would then train additional instructors throughout the state and in every agency that wanted this program. Our intent is to create a program designed to help our officers to thrive in a lengthy career. Our goal of training small groups of 20 to 25 instructors will cost approximately \$5000 per class. Several agencies have quickly stepped up to offer their help in funding this program. I am asking if you will do the same. Any amount will help and is greatly appreciated. If you are interested, I ask that you make all donations to POAG who will disperse these funds as necessary to cover the cost of the training. All donations should be made to the POAG Foundation and designated for Police Resiliency Training.

Thank you so very much for your support in bringing this worthwhile, life changing and most importantly lifesaving program to our great state.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ayers", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Ayers, Executive Director

P.O.S.T.

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