

Chief Erich Upperman was a dedicated public servant of the City of Fairview Park through his thirty-six years as an employee of the City;

WHEREAS: Chief Erich Upperman was born on September 4, 1962 and grew up in Parma, Ohio. He moved to North Olmsted, Ohio in 1976 and graduated from North Olmsted High School in 1980. Chief Upperman has resided in Fairview Park since 1986. Chief Upperman has been married to Diane for 36 years and is the father of Alicia, Ashley, and Brett; and

WHEREAS: At age 21, Chief Upperman was hired as a patrolman with the Fairview Park Police Department. He graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in Columbus in 1984. In 1987, Chief Upperman was responsible for the pre-hire physical fitness and agility test for applicants, a responsibility he maintained throughout his career; and

WHEREAS: In 1995, Chief Upperman was promoted to Sergeant and he created the Fairview Park Police Department Bicycle Unit along with Patrolman Mark Miller. He was promoted to Lieutenant on July 10, 1997. In 2006, Chief Upperman took over the command of the Auxiliary Unit and involved neighboring communities' auxiliary units during training sessions and in assisting each other with large events; and

WHEREAS: In November 1987, Chief Upperman was the first officer on scene of a murder investigation and obtained a spontaneous confession; in September of 1993 he was instrumental in the arrest of two suspects during an armed robbery in progress and recovered the hand gun; in May of 2004 he was instrumental in the arrest of a suspect who kidnapped a three-year-old girl (the victim was unharmed); and in May of 2008, while off duty, pursued an individual who left the scene after striking his car, and apprehended the driver who was wanted for Aggravated Robbery and Attempted Murder charges; and

WHEREAS: In May of 2013, Chief Upperman became the Executive Officer of the Department and on October 21, 2013 he was sworn in as Chief of Police by Mayor Eileen Patton; and

WHEREAS: In 2014, Chief Upperman was the Chairman of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) Chiefs and partnered with other WEB Police Departments, Project Dawn, and the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner Office to equip road officers with Naloxone (Narcan) to aid people overdosing from opioids; and

WHEREAS: Chief Upperman adopted the A.L.I.C.E. platform for active shooter response and partnered with Fairview Park City Schools, Messiah Lutheran School, and St. Angela Merici School to teach A.L.I.C.E. to staffs and students; and

WHEREAS: In 2016, Chief Upperman partnered with the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center to initiate an outreach program for victims of domestic violence. He established a Crisis Intervention Team to better respond to calls involving people in a mental health crisis, with autism, dementia, and addiction; and

WHEREAS: Chief Upperman, the Department, and other WEB cities created the Quick Response Team in 2018, which responds to every opioid overdose, offers treatment to recovered victims, and attempts to hold the drug dealers responsible; and

WHEREAS: Chief Upperman was a member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Westshore Enforcement Bureau Chiefs of Police. He was the five time recipient of the M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Award for DUI enforcement. Chief Upperman hired thirteen new officers during his tenure as Chief and worked under Mayors Joseph Gaul, Karl Kubb, Eileen Patton, and Patrick J. Cooney.

Now therefore, I, Patrick J. Cooney, Mayor of the City of Fairview Park, urge the citizens of Fairview Park to join me in celebrating the career of Chief Erich Upperman in honoring all that he contributed to the City of Fairview Park and its residents, the Fairview Park Police Department, and to the community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this second day of October in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty.



Patrick J. Cooney, Mayor
City of Fairview Park