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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THAT THE MAYOR REINSTATE CRANSTON POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW JOSEFSON TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT

No.

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John E. Lanni, Jr., Council President

WHEREAS, Matthew Josefson was serving as a member of the Cranston Police Department in the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Josefson was demoted by then Colonel Palombo on November 20, 2013 from the rank of Sergeant to the rank of Patrolman; and

WHEREAS, the assessment of the Cranston Rhode Island Police Department for the period 2014 – 2015 was conducted by the Rhode Island State Police pursuant to a request by Mayor Fung; and

WHEREAS, in late July 2015, the Rhode Island State Police made public a partially redacted version of their Assessment of the Cranston Police Department; and

WHEREAS, as part of that Assessment, section 8 of the Report, which includes both factual findings and conclusions from pages 83 through 130, addresses the state police assessment of the handling of the demotion of Sergeant Josefson; and

WHEREAS, in the Assessment by the State Police, the State Police reviewed all then pending charges against Sergeant Josefson and concluded that the charges lacked factual and reasonable basis, lacked documentation, and lacked quantifiable evidence. Principal among those charges was the assertion that Sergeant Josefson violated a ban on use of recording devices by police officers at the Cranston Police station. The State Police found that the policy or rule and enacting such a ban had never been properly adopted or circulated to members of the Cranston Police force; and

WHEREAS, the Cranston City Council reviewed the State Police Assessment report in its entirety and held a special meeting of the City Council to question the Mayor concerning the findings of this report and Assessment; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the Cranston City Council accepts as true the findings of the Rhode Island
47 State Police Assessment that in essence Sergeant Josefson was improperly demoted from his
48 position as Sergeant and specifically finds that this demotion was unfair and unjust; and
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50 **WHEREAS**, on August 27, 2014, the Rhode Island State Police discussed the Josefson
51 situation in detail with Mayor Fung and recommended he be restored immediately to the rank of
52 sergeant, yet Mayor Fung has not acted to right an obvious wrong,";
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54 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council is requesting Mayor
55 Fung to immediately restore Officer Matthew Josefson to the position of Sergeant in the
56 Cranston Police Department.
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60 Sponsored by Council Vice President Santamaria, Council President Lanni; Councilman Stycos
61 and Councilman Aceto
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