

RESOLUTION – 69-2024

A RESOLUTION HONORING LIEUTENANT WESLEY NEELY AND HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MT. JULIET

WHEREAS, Lt. Wesley Neely has devoted 37 years of exemplary service to the City of Mt. Juliet, demonstrating unwavering dedication, leadership, and kindness throughout his career with the Mt. Juliet Police Department (MJPd); and

WHEREAS, Lt. Neely began his service in 1987 as one of only six employees in the department, working alongside Chief Charles McCrary, Winston Floyd, and Zack Atwood, often patrolling alone, stepping in for dispatch when needed, and providing steadfast support in a growing agency; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Neely was selected as the department's first unofficial IT specialist during the introduction of computers, and over the years wore many hats, including those of detective, youth guidance officer, and community engagement leader; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Neely became affectionately known as "Officer Friendly" by students at Mt. Juliet High School, embodying the values of approachability and trust in law enforcement, long before the formal establishment of School Resource Officers; and

WHEREAS, as a pioneer in community policing, Lt. Neely fostered strong relationships with business owners, clergy, and community leaders, and organized numerous initiatives such as "Cops and Jocks" softball games, fundraisers with Titans players and country music stars, and youth outreach programs featuring McGruff the Crime Dog; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Neely served as the department's first Homeland Security liaison, first full-time training officer, and played a pivotal role in creating the Mt. Juliet Police Department firing range alongside Lt. Gwin King, contributing to officer training and safety; and

WHEREAS, as the Patrol Division Commander for 15 years, Lt. Neely exemplified selflessness and care, prioritizing the safety and well-being of his officers while leading with compassion and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Neely's professional accomplishments are matched only by his personal devotion to his faith, family, and community, sharing 39 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Pam, raising three children, and cherishing six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Neely's legacy of faith, service, and commitment has left an indelible mark on the City of Mt. Juliet and its citizens, inspiring countless individuals and embodying the highest ideals of public service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Juliet wishes to express its profound gratitude and admiration for Lt. Wesley Neely's remarkable career and contributions to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Mt. Juliet and its governing body hereby honor and celebrate the extraordinary career and legacy of Lt. Wesley Neely, offering heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved retirement and extending best wishes for health, happiness, and blessings in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these sentiments of appreciation and respect be recorded in the official records as a lasting tribute to Lt. Wesley Neely's outstanding service to the City of Mt. Juliet.

Adopted this 9th day of December, **2024**.

PASSED: 12/09/24

James Maness, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheila S. Lockett, MMC
City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Manager, Kenny Martin

Samantha A. Burnett
City Attorney