

2026 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 143

Commending Joe Carter.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 23, 2026

WHEREAS, Joe Carter has ably served the City of Falls Church for 25 years as a law-enforcement officer and the city's director of emergency management and security, demonstrating an unparalleled expertise in crisis management through a wide range of natural disasters, public health emergencies, and other adverse situations; and

WHEREAS, Joe Carter joined the Falls Church Police Department in 2000 and quickly earned a reputation as a consummate professional and a trusted mentor; he ultimately provided leadership to the police operations division, where he ensured that the department upheld a responsive, community-oriented public safety philosophy; and

WHEREAS, Joe Carter retired from the Falls Church Police Department as a captain in 2018 and was appointed as the emergency management coordinator for Falls Church in 2019; he was subsequently promoted to director of emergency management and security in 2023; and

WHEREAS, in that capacity, Joe Carter has planned, coordinated, and directed the response to major snowstorms, floods, prolonged power outages, and public health emergencies, earning the nickname "master of disaster"; and

WHEREAS, Joe Carter leads emergency preparedness training courses and tabletop exercises for city staff, Falls Church City Public Schools, houses of worship, senior centers, and homeowners' associations; he also conducts safety and security assessments of public facilities and other locations by request; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Joe Carter has served as an instructor in the city's Rape Aggression Defense course, which empowers women to recognize and avoid dangerous situations and effectively defend themselves against aggressors; and

WHEREAS, Joe Carter works with community members and city staff to ensure that special events are planned to ensure that all who attend have a safe and welcoming experience; and

WHEREAS, Joe Carter was selected as the 2020 Falls Church Employee of the Year in recognition of his outstanding leadership in helping staff and community members plan for, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Joe Carter has demonstrated calm, steady leadership under pressure and has earned widespread appreciation for his professionalism, empathy, and dedication to public service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Joe Carter hereby be commended for his professional achievements in service to the Falls Church community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Joe Carter as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his legacy of contributions to public safety.

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