



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON  
STATE OF NEW YORK**

Date: September 9, 2020

Sponsored by Council Members: Scaringi, Resciniti, Strawn, Scanlon

Introduced by Committee: Municipal & Public Affairs

**RESOLUTION**

*entitled*

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
BINGHAMTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND  
HONORING BINGHAMTON'S FALLEN POLICE  
OFFICERS

WHEREAS, on August 3, 1995, Patrolman Lee Barta, of the Binghamton Police Department, was shot and killed in the line of duty while searching for a work release suspect; and

WHEREAS, in its 153-year history, seven Binghamton Police Officers have been killed in the line of duty, Patrolman Alex Horvatt, Patrolman William F. McDonald, Patrolman Clarence W. Moran, Patrolman Gerald M. Tracey, Patrolman George J. Weslar, Patrolman William F. Holbert Jr., and Patrolman Lee E. Barta; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 89 U.S. law enforcement officers were killed in line-of-duty incidents, according to the FBI; and

WHEREAS, the Binghamton Police Department was founded in 1867 and since 1993 has been an accredited agency with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), dedicated to accountability and highest standards of policing; and

WHEREAS, as the largest law enforcement agency in the Southern Tier, the Binghamton Police Department responded to 51,795 calls for service in 2019, and annually conducts thousands of hours of officer trainings, and a seven month training program for new recruits; and

WHEREAS, for many officers being a police officer is a tradition of public service and a calling passed down for generations; and

WHEREAS, through the COVID-19 pandemic, officers join other front line personnel working amidst new threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, police officers are ambassadors and role models in Binghamton's schools and neighborhoods through School Resource Officer (SRO), PAL Camp and mentoring programs; and

WHEREAS, Binghamton Police officers have saved citizens in life and death situations, putting their own lives in danger; and

WHEREAS, in a 2016 open letter to America's law enforcement community, President Barack Obama wrote, "Time and again, you make the split-second decisions that could mean life



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or death for you and many others in harm's way. You endure the tense minutes and long hours over lifetimes of service. Every day, you accept this responsibility and you see your colleagues do their difficult, dangerous jobs with equal valor. I want you to know that the American people see it, too. We recognize it, we respect it, we appreciate it, and we depend on you"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Binghamton; that This Council publicly acknowledges its support for the commitment and sacrifices made by members of the Binghamton Police Department. This Council honors the courageous service of Binghamton Police Department's seven fallen officers, including Patrolman Lee Barta on the 25th anniversary of his death. This Council will advocate for state and federal officials to appropriate necessary resources to support and protect law enforcement, including the Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership. This Council will provide the tools and resources to protect citizens and officers and create a more peaceful community.

Introductory No. R20-96

Permanent No. R20-94

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The within Resolution was adopted by the Council of  
the City of Binghamton.

Date 9/9/2020

City Clerk Elizabeth R. Adams

Date Presented to Mayor 9/10/2020

Date Approved 9/10/2020

Mayor William D. Steiner

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Scaringi	✓			
Councilwoman Resciniti	✓			
Councilwoman Riley		✓		
Councilwoman Friedhan			✓	
Councilman Burns	✓			
Councilman Strawn	✓			
Councilman Scanlon	✓			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Code of the City of Binghamton

Adopted  Defeated

5 Ayes 2 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent

I hereby certify the above to be a true  
copy of the legislation adopted by the  
Council of the City of Binghamton at a  
meeting held on 9/9/2020. Approved  
by the Mayor on 9/10/2020

