CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
750 WATERMAN AVENUE
EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02914
(401)-435-7600

MAYOR ROBERTO DASILVA

CHIEF MICHAEL J. RAPOZA

3/26/26

Rhode Island General Assembly
Senate and House Finance Committees
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the $400,000 included in H7127, the Governor's FY27 proposed budget for the Department of Public Safety, to continue funding the Go TEAM®. We deeply appreciate the Governor's and Legislature's support over the past few years. I respectfully request that this funding be increased to $760,000 in the FY27 budget to allow the expansion of the GO TEAM® partnership to six additional Rhode Island communities. East Providence is among these proposed expansion locations, and implementing the GO TEAM® would be transformative for our community.

For the past 20 years, Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI) has partnered with police departments across the state to provide 24/7/365 joint response for victims of crime, with a particular focus on children exposed to traumatic events. The GO TEAM® currently partners with the Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket, Newport, Barrington, and Rhode Island State Police Departments. With additional state investment, partnerships could expand to the North Providence, East Providence, Middletown, Jamestown, South Kingstown, and New Shoreham Police Departments.

Through this innovative model, an FSRI police liaison rides along on patrol with police officers, responding on-scene to provide crisis response and stabilization to decrease the impact of trauma. The partnerships serve hundreds of victims of crime every year, with a special focus on the most vulnerable in our communities - children. This partnership helps officers do their jobs while feeling confident victims are being well taken care of during and immediately following their victimization. In recent months, the GO TEAM® has played a critical role in coordinating on-scene crisis response and trauma support following the mass violence incidents at Brown University and the Pawtucket ice rink.

The GO TEAM® has been recognized as a best practice locally, regionally, and nationally; has won several grants, awards, and special designations over the years; and has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from victims served. Additional funding will allow Rhode Island to expand this highly effective model and ensure more communities have access to trauma-informed crisis response when it is needed most.

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I strongly support the requested $760,000 budget allocation for the GO TEAM®. Please contact me if I can be of assistance or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael J Rapoza
East Providence Police Department