

Faye Moses Wilkins' Presentation to DART Police

August 9, 2016

As Chair of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board, Faye Moses Wilkins presented a [proclamation](#) to DART police officers at the August 9, 2016 DART Board Meeting to recognize their everyday contribution to the community, but most of all for their sacrifice on July 7, 2016. On that day, Brent Thompson was the first DART police officer ever killed in the line of duty. Mr. Thompson was one of five officers killed by sniper gunfire after a peaceful protest against police shootings in the downtown streets.



At the Board Meeting, which was filled to capacity with police officers, Mrs. Wilkins also proclaimed and declared Friday, August 12, 2016 as “We Support Our Police Day” in honor of all transit officers.

To serve the needs of the riding public, DART created its own police department in September of 1989. The DART Police Department was founded and initially manned by one officer. Since its inception, it has grown to over 300 positions. Chief James Spiller now has two deputy chiefs, one captain, six lieutenants, four civilian managers, and twenty-seven sergeants to assist him in running the day-to-day operations of the department.

DART Police officers are vested with all the rights, privileges, obligations, and duties of peace officers in the state of Texas, which means that DART Police officers have the power of: arrest, serving arrest warrants, issuing citations, search and seizure, and filing criminal charges.

The DART Police department is separate from and wholly unrelated to any other police department, including the Dallas Police Department. DART Police officers are special-purpose peace officers created by the Texas Legislature (Texas Transportation Code §452.110) whose purpose is to safeguard DART, its customers, and employees by providing police services throughout DART's transportation system.

Honorary Proclamation

Issued To:

Chief James D. Spiller

“WE SUPPORT THE DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT”

WHEREAS, We the Board of Directors who represent the 13 member cities of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Regional Transportation Authority support the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Department and all North Texas law enforcement agencies.; and

WHEREAS, The Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Department has adopted a community-oriented policing philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime; and

WHEREAS, we recognize our Police Officers strive to make policing safer and more effective by continuing to enhance relations and trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Some of the ways our Police have enhanced their relationship are by: Problem Oriented Policing; interacting with DART riders by conducting customer service events at various rail stations and transit centers, providing assistance at rail station platforms and on trains, hosting National Night Out at our police headquarters to interact with our neighborhood, participating in the Texas Special Olympics, organizing and distributing food and gifts to needy families through the DART Police Santa Cops Program, and attending countless school, community and neighborhood events throughout our 13 city service area; and

WHEREAS, Our Police Officers are mentors, familiar faces, and members of our community. They are hardworking mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons who have dedicated their lives to public service, working every day to build a brighter future as displayed by the numerous programs and activities in the community.

WHEREAS, On July 7, 2016, a day that will always be remembered because of the loss of the lives of five brave police officers, including DART Police Officer Brent Thompson, who sacrificed their lives while protecting the lives of civilians and other police officers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Regional Transportation Authority does hereby proclaim August 12th, 2016 as “We Support Our Police Day” and call upon our residents and businesses to join us in commending the outstanding work of our Police Officers and support them in their commitment to community- oriented policing and their duty to serve the people by safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of North Texas.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hand and seal this 9th day of August, 2016.

Faye Moses Wilkins
Chairman of the Board

Gary C. Thomas
President/Executive Director

Carol E. Wise
Executive Vice President
Chief Operations Officer