

RESOLUTION FOR KEEPING THE POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the Police Training Institute (PTI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was created by state law in 1955 and has earned a state-wide reputation for excellence; and

WHEREAS, the creation of PTI at the University of Illinois by the Illinois Legislature is consistent with the Morrill Act of 1862, signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, which created land grant universities in the United States, and which specifies in part:

" .. without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life." *Title 7 of the United States Code, section 304;* and

WHEREAS, given the heightened awareness of the social impact of policing and the need for greater community trust, culturally competent training for police officers has never been more important in the State of Illinois and in the nation than now; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties throughout Illinois choose training provided at PTI, not only for the experienced leadership, refined curriculum and quality of instruction, but also for the vibrant campus setting and diverse community that encourages the development of critical thinking skills and provides context to scenario-based training; and

WHEREAS, the strong demand for training at PTI has made it the largest training facility outside Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, created by the Illinois Legislature in 1965, is working with a generous donor to build a police training academy in Decatur, which we appreciate and support, but is considering closing PTI; and

WHEREAS, the increasing need to hire new police officers and the increasing number of hours of training required for each officer suggests that PTI, the oldest and most highly respected academy in Illinois, should still have an active and ongoing role at all levels of law enforcement training;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urbana City Council supports keeping PTI open as an excellent training facility for basic law enforcement as well as for advanced research, and as a treasure worth keeping for local governments throughout Illinois.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this ____ day of January, 2017.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this ____ day of _____, _____

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor