**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CAPTAIN ESTELLE YOUNG OF THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT, TO THANK HER FOR HER FORTY‑TWO YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, AND TO WISH HER MUCH SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the General Assembly has learned that Columbia Police Captain Estelle Young, after forty‑two years of dedicated service with the City of Columbia, will retire on June 23, 2011; and

Whereas, a native of Columbia, Estelle Young was born one of twelve children and grew up in the Ridgewood area of the city. She and her late husband parented son Quintus Leon and niece Priscilla, and Captain Young now enjoys the blessing of three grandchildren, a lovely daughter‑in‑law, and a great‑grandson; and

Whereas, Captain Young has had the pleasure of seeing her son and a grandson enter law enforcement, as well as that of joining with her son to form South Carolina’s first mother‑son team in law enforcement; and

Whereas, in preparation for her long career, Captain Young earned an associate degree in criminal justice, a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of South Carolina, and a master’s degree in human resource development from Webster University. She is a graduate of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and has been trained in many areas of law enforcement, management, and community relations. She was a finalist for the position of Columbia Police Chief in 2008; and

Whereas, she began her career in 1969 patrolling Columbia’s streets as a meter maid, next moving into an administrative position at City Hall. But Ethel Dike, one of Columbia’s first female police officers, kept suggesting she sign up for the police force; and

Whereas, in 1979, Estelle Young made the switch and became one of six women on the police force. There were few black officers at that time, and she had to prove her mettle as both a woman and a black officer; and

Whereas, Captain Young worked her way through the Columbia Police Department’s ranks from patrolman to investigator to sergeant to region commander. Since 2008, she has commanded the North Region; and

Whereas, she may be most remembered for her community service. She started the police department’s Explorer Post, which introduces the police profession to area youth. She now works with fourteen officers who went through her Explorers program as teens. In addition, she founded other programs, such as Shop With a Cop, which provides Christmas money to disadvantaged youth so they can shop for their families, and Fan the Heat, which provides fans and air conditioners to the elderly. She also has been known to dip into her own pockets to help someone in need, and she serves actively at Ridgewood Baptist Church. Captain Young plans to continue her community service after retirement; and

Whereas, over the years, she has received numerous honors for her committed labors, among them certificates from the U.S. Department of Justice, Sertoma Club Service to Mankind Award, American Business Women Association Business Woman of the Year Award, and Midlands Coalition of Churches Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award; and

Whereas, in honor of her retirement, Captain Young’s many friends are holding celebratory events to thank her for all she has done; and

Whereas, for more than four decades, Estelle Young has carried out her duties with such excellence that she has earned the respect of all who have had the privilege of working with her; and

Whereas, grateful for her commitment to excellence over more than forty years, the General Assembly wishes to thank Captain Young for her exemplary service to the people of Columbia. The members hope she will find much joy in the increased leisure time she will soon be able to devote to family, friends, and other interests during a well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Captain Estelle Young of the Columbia Police Department on the occasion of her retirement, thank her for her forty‑two years of dedicated service to the City of Columbia, and wish her much success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Captain Estelle Young.

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