



# PROCLAMATION

## Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 10-16, 2026

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the Hillsborough Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 1786, Sheriff Benjamin Brach of Chesterfield County, Virginia, became the first law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in the United States; since then, more than 26,600 law enforcement officers in the United States have paid the ultimate price during the performance of their duties, including 639 in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, over 50,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported each year, resulting in approximately 17,000 injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, the 87th Congress passed Public Law 87-726, a joint resolution authorizing the president to proclaim May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the calendar week during which May 15 occurs as Police Week; this was signed into law by President John F. Kennedy on Oct. 1, 1962; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Hillsborough Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of our residents, they protect the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression, they unceasingly provide a vital public service without which our town would not enjoy the peace and liberty that we so dearly value; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that community members know and understand the duties and responsibilities of our law enforcement officers and acknowledge the hazards and sacrifices that are a fundamental aspect of their profession;

**THEREFORE**, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim May 10 through May 16, 2026 as "Police Week" and call upon all organizations and residents to commemorate law enforcement officers, past and present, who have rendered dedicated service to their communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I proclaim Friday, May 15, 2026 as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and call upon all residents of Hillsborough to honor those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or became disabled in their performance of their duty.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 11th day of May in the year 2026.

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Mark Bell, Mayor  
Town of Hillsborough