



MEMO

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June 5, 2018

Representative Anne Gonzales
District 19
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TO: Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Patton and Ranking Member Sheehy
Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
PC: Representative Gonzales
FROM: David A. Collinsworth, City Manager, City of Westerville
RE: Support of House Bill 623
DATE: June 5, 2018

On behalf of the City of Westerville, I am providing written testimony in support of House Bill 623 which will designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway."

On February 10, 2018, the City of Westerville and its Division of Police suffered a tremendous loss with the line of duty deaths of Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering. Responding to dropped 9-1-1 call, Officers Morelli and Joering walked into the middle of domestic dispute which led to their shooting by an assailant, causing their deaths. In serving the citizens of Westerville by performing their duty, these officers laid down their lives.

The impact of this horrific event on the Westerville community was devastating. Their deaths though, were mourned not only by members of the Police Division and residents of the City, but by people of goodwill from every corner of Central Ohio. Countless expressions of sympathy ensued as the region, the State of Ohio, and much of the nation paid tribute to the supreme sacrifice made by these two dedicated officers of the law.

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Our solemn vow throughout those days of mourning was to memorialize and never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by Officers Morelli and Joering. As local and regional efforts materialize, the City of Westerville finds it most appropriate for the State of Ohio to officially honor these men with the special designation of the “Westerville portion” of I-270 as “Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway”. This shall serve as a fitting and lasting tribute to permanently memorialize these outstanding officers and their bravery for Central Ohioians and all those whose travels bring them through this area.

For the foregoing reasons and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Westerville, I urge your support and encourage passage of HB 623.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Collinsworth, City Manager
City of Westerville