



Police Department

DOYLE H. WEBSTER
Mayor

THOMAS S. WELLS
Chief

JOHN JONES
City Administrator

March 2, 2021

Chairman Baldrige, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 33.

On behalf of the men and women of the Springdale Police Department, it is my honor to be here today to speak on behalf of Police Officer Kaia L. Grant, who was killed in the line of duty on March 21, 2020.

Police Officer Grant was the type of person that makes an immediate impression on you. She came to us as a graduate of the College of William and Mary and an avid student of political science. No matter what she did, she was there to make a difference.

We were blessed that Kaia chose policing as her calling and our department as her aspiration. As one of the panel members during her employment interview, she demonstrated her maturity and poise as she elaborated on the experiences she had as a supervisor of a Cincinnati Public Schools after school program for disadvantaged youth. She was supervising over twenty people and was only 24 years old. She had also worked for then-Senator Joe Biden's team in Washington D.C. By the end of the interview, we knew two things. We had to have her on our team and we knew we loved her now famous smile.

Kaia had a quiet and unassuming personality but she made great impressions no matter what she did. She had a quiet confidence that made you want to be around her and be a part of what she was a part of. She had the respect of us all.

It is so hard to quantify the experience our department has been through; the profound loss that we all feel. We are all grieving her in different ways but to each of us, she represented the best of what it means to be a peace officer. And, her death was noble. No one wants to die but police officers come to work every day knowing it might be their last watch. They seek to maintain order and keep society safe in spite of that reality. She died doing what she believed in and she did her job. She stopped that man from being able to do anything else to anyone. She protected others by giving her life, the ultimate sacrifice.

We are honored that this body is considering the naming of I-275 in Springdale the "Officer Kaia L. Grant Memorial Highway" and thank Representatives Jessica Miranda and Sedrick Denson for their tremendous support of law enforcement and for cosponsoring this bill to honor this amazing and dynamic woman. We thank you for considering the opportunity to share Kaia's name and her sacrifice with all who travel through the City of Springdale, Ohio.

Respectfully,

Thomas S. Wells

Chief Thomas S. Wells
City of Springdale Police

