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City of New Orleans Declares September 7 as Geaux Blue NOLA Day

(NEW ORLEANS) –Today, plans are underway for the inaugural Geaux Blue NOLA Day, a day to recognize the vital importance of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) to the well-being of the community. The City Council is encouraging all residents to Geaux Blue on September 7 by wearing blue clothing or ribbons and to decorate their homes, mailboxes and businesses with blue wreaths, bows or lights.

By Resolution No. 4-16-348 of the New Orleans City Council, September 7 was officially declared as **Geaux Blue NOLA Day**. The Council unanimously approved the resolution to establish this day as a day of recognition for the New Orleans Police Department, our men and women in blue. City officials hope that celebrating September 7 will become an annual tradition and that citizens will continue to use this opportunity to recognize our officers and acknowledge their sacrifice, service and dedication.

“I recently received word from the NOPD Officer Assistance Program that the children of NOPD officers were concerned about their mothers and fathers going to work because of the recent events across the country. I knew that we had to do something to show our appreciation to the officers and to their families,” **said Councilmember Susan G. Guidry, District A.**

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said, “Every day, the men and women of the New Orleans Police Department put their lives on the line by answering the call to keep us safe. They run toward danger, not away from it. And most importantly, they are part of our family and our community. I encourage all New Orleanians to join us for Geaux Blue NOLA Day as we send a powerful message about the partnership between the police and the community.”

Local landmarks, such as the Mercedes Benz Superdome, Smoothie King Arena, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, will light up in blue on the evening of Geaux Blue Day.

School administrators have also been asked to encourage students to participate by wearing blue to class, decorating their schools, and creating special art work and delivering it to their NOPD district stations. In addition, teachers have been asked to invite an officer to speak to their class and to dedicate time throughout the day to discuss the important role that the men and women in blue hold in the community.

“Every day, the men and women of the NOPD are running toward the danger to keep our residents and visitors safe,” **said NOPD Superintendent Michael Harrison.** “While we don’t do what we do for the recognition, we are grateful for this strong showing of support from the New Orleans community. Geaux Blue Day shows our officers and their families just how much they are appreciated, and it means a lot.”

On September 7, everyone is also encouraged to share their Geaux Blue NOLA Day experiences by uploading their photos to social media using the hashtag #GeauxBlueNOLA. To learn more about the Geaux Blue NOLA Day, log onto <http://geauxbluenola.org/> . Information is also available on the Geaux Blue NOLA Facebook and Twitter pages.

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