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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

American Jail Association Resolution

Designation of Correctional Officers as Sworn Members of the Criminal Justice Community and as First Responders in the Public Safety Community

- WHEREAS,** the American Jail Association, Inc. (AJA) is an organization dedicated to ensuring that those who work in our nation's jails and prisons in all jurisdictions are recognized as professionals in the public safety community, and
- WHEREAS,** the job of a Correctional Officer entails being the first to respond to various emergencies in any correctional facility, including criminal activity, medical emergencies, mental health emergencies, fires, hostage situations, riots, disturbances, violent offenders, gang threats, contraband, and natural disasters, and
- WHEREAS,** Correctional Officers experience similar physical and mental health impacts as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, and
- WHEREAS,** numerous state and local jurisdictions do not consider Correctional Officers to be sworn members of the criminal justice, profession nor are they held in the same regard as law enforcement officers, and
- WHEREAS,** numerous state and local jurisdictions fail to acknowledge Correctional Officers as First Responders, thus limiting their access to grant funds, retirement funds, disability and death benefits, as well as educational opportunities available to recognized First Responders;
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED
THAT** the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association wholeheartedly supports and will actively advocate for Correctional Officers to be recognized as sworn members of the criminal justice community and to be officially recognized as First Responders in every state and local jurisdiction. This recognition will help to ensure Correctional Officers receive the same benefits and rights as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel ensuring their wellbeing and acknowledging their significant contributions to the criminal justice profession.

Adopted on September 13,, 2023, by the AJA Board of Directors in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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