

Senate Resolution 180

By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Robertson of the 29th, Williams of the 25th, Hodges of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating Rome Police Chief Denise Downer-McKinney as Georgia's
2 2022-2023 Outstanding Police Chief of the Year; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Rome Police Chief Denise Downer-McKinney is highly regarded by the
4 citizens of her community and state and by local government officials as a person of
5 unquestioned integrity, humility, and dedication to the sound principles of law enforcement;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, she began her career in 1981 with the Rome Police Department, where she rose
8 through the ranks of captain in 1991 and major in 2010. In 2016, she was appointed as the
9 Rome police chief; and

10 WHEREAS, Chief Downer-McKinney earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of
11 Cincinnati and Master of Public Administration from Columbus State University; and

12 WHEREAS, Chief Downer-McKinney has graduated from many advanced law enforcement
13 leadership programs, including the FBI National Academy, Georgia Law Enforcement
14 Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS), Southeastern Law Enforcement Executive

15 Development Seminar, Georgia Law Enforcement Command College, and the Georgia
16 International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program; and

17 WHEREAS, she has served as chief of police for the City of Rome Police Department, a full
18 service and revered law enforcement agency, for the last six years; and

19 WHEREAS, Chief Downer-McKinney has served on numerous boards and advisory
20 committees, including the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Floyd
21 Hospital Executive Board, and the Rome/Floyd Chamber of Commerce; and

22 WHEREAS, Chief Downer-McKinney made history when she was named as the first
23 African American chief of police for the City of Rome; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2022, Chief Downer-McKinney was the first female police chief to be named
25 as the Outstanding Georgia Police Chief of the Year by the Georgia Association of Chiefs
26 of Police; and

27 WHEREAS, Chief Downer-McKinney has been united in love and marriage to her husband,
28 Archie, for more than 30 years, and the two have been blessed with three children; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body show their
30 gratitude for the unique and often unheralded contributions of Chief Downer-McKinney and
31 all local law enforcement officers on behalf of the citizens of this state.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 commend the care, courage, and selfless dedication exhibited by Rome Police Chief Denise

34 Downer-McKinney in carrying out the difficult duties of her vocation and congratulate her
35 upon her recognition as Georgia's 2022-2023 Outstanding Police Chief of the Year.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Rome Police Chief
38 Denise Downer-McKinney.