NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION

"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"

WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chief Carmen Best (Ret)

Seattle Police Department

Carmen Best is currently the Microsoft Global Account Director for Securitas International where she has been successful having transitioned from public sector executive to corporate security, where she has focused on standardization, global account alignment, process consistency, transparency, training and accountability. Carmen Best served as the Chief of Police of the Seattle Police Department where she worked for 28 years, beginning as an entry-level patrol officer, and later becoming the first African American woman Chief of Police, managing approximately 2000 sworn and civilian employees before retiring in 2020. Prior to becoming Chief of Police, she served as Deputy Chief, overseeing the Patrol Operations, Investigations, and Special Operations Bureaus, as well as the Community Outreach section. Among her many accomplishments as Chief of Police was her creation of the Collaborative Police Bureau, a segment of the SPD encouraging community partnerships and engagement. As Chief of Police, she and the SPD were the nation's immediate responders to implement first responder safety protocols and practices in response to COVID-19. Best also facilitated record-breaking diversity hiring and recruitment within the department.

Carmen Best has lived in the Pacific Northwest her entire life, outside of her service in the United States Army and has received dozens of awards for her contributions to community engagement, public safety, gender equity, and diversity and inclusion. She received the "Newsmaker of the Year" award from the Seattle Black Press, the "Vision from the Mountain Top" award from Urban Impact for her commitment to justice and community, the "Influential Woman of 2020" award from the Puget Sound Business Journal, the FBI National Executive Institute Associates (NEIA) National Law Enforcement Ethics Award 2020 and the Leadership Award from Major Cities Chief's Association 2020. She was awarded the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2019), dedicated to recognizing individuals who selflessly contribute to society and uphold the ideals of America, an award read into the Congressional Record. Additionally, Ms. Best was nominated for an Emmy Award for her work on the public safety announcements "Safe in the Sound." Most recently she was awarded the "Women Can Do" award from the Honorary Consul of Sweden – (official ceremony in March 2022).

Best serves as the Leadership Council Chair for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Seattle. She is on the Board of Ethics for Axon International, a board member for United Way of King County (UWKC), the Young Women's Christian Council of King County (YWCA) with a mission toward diversity and equity, the Seattle University Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, and co-chair of the Human and Civil Rights Committee (HCRC) for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). She is a former member of the IACP Board of Directors and the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force (LEITF) - groups with which she maintains affiliation.

Ms. Best became a first-time author in late 2021 when she released her book, "Black in Blue: Lessons on Leadership, Breaking Barriers and Racial Reconciliation."

She is a contributor to MSNBC, CNBC and NBC News affiliates and a law enforcement analyst for KING 5 news in Seattle. She is regularly requested as a subject matter expert and keynote speaker, both locally and nationally on a variety of topics: public safety, leadership, reimagining policing, police reform, women in policing, and diversity and inclusion.

Best has a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University. She has completed the FBI National Executive Institute (NEI), the FBI National Academy (FBI/NA), the Criminal Justice Executive Leadership Academy, the Major Cities Chiefs Association's Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI), and the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP).

Ms. Best is a member of the International Organization of Black Security Executives, ASIS International, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the National Latino Police Officers Association (NLPOA) and is the mother of two adult daughters and enjoys hiking in her spare time.

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State of New Jersey

THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

By Senator VITALE, Assembly Speaker COUGHLIN and Assemblywoman LOPEZ

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to salute Chief Carmen Best, a highly esteemed member of her community, who will be honored by the National Police Defense Foundation during its Awards Gala on May 11, 2022, at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, New York; and,

WHEREAS, The prestigious Woman of the Year Award is being bestowed upon Carmen Best in appreciation of her extraordinary accomplishments; and,

WHEREAS, An illustrious graduate of Northeastern University, Carmen Best wrote a new chapter in history as the first African-American woman to serve as Chief of the Seattle Police Department, and she is especially appreciated for establishing the Collaborative Police Bureau and for implementing first-responder safety protocols and practices during the Covid-19 pandemic before her well-deserved retirement in 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Her outstanding career with the department included her tenure as Deputy Chief, during which she oversaw the Patrol Operations, Investigations, and Special Operations bureaus, as well as the Community Outreach section; and,

WHEREAS, The author of the acclaimed book, *Black in Blue: Lessons on Leadership, Breaking Barriers and Racial Reconciliation*, Carmen Best has lent her expertise as Microsoft Global Account Director for Securitas International, and she shares her insight as a contributor to MSNBC, CNBC, and as a law-enforcement analyst for KING 5 News in Seattle; and,

WHEREAS, She has given generously of her time and energy as Leadership Council Chair for UNCF Seattle, the Young Women's Christian Council of King County, the Seattle University Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, and as Co-Chair of the Human and Civil Rights Committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and,

WHEREAS, Within all the spheres of her life and work, Carmen Best has established a model to emulate and has set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for this Legislature to acknowledge Carmen Best and to praise her as an individual of strong character and uncommon determination; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby commends Carmen Best, pays tribute to her meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success in all her future endeavors; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to Chief Carmen Best.

Attest:

Nicholas P. Scutari
President of the Senate

Craig J. Coughlin
Speaker of the General Assembly

Linda Metzger
Secretary of the Senate

Dana M. Burley
Clerk of the General Assembly