City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RESOLUTION NO. 260548

Introduced May 14, 2026

Councilmember Bass

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life, legacy, and distinguished service of Detective Samuel P. Wyche, Sr., who served on the first all-black detective unit, the Dick Anderson Squad, in recognition of National Police Week 2026.

WHEREAS, Detective Samuel P. Wyche, Sr. served the citizens of Philadelphia with honor and distinction as a member of the Philadelphia Police Department from 1946 until 1967, during a transformative period in the City's history; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week is observed from May 10 through May 16 in 2026, honoring the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of law enforcement officers who have died and officers who continue to faithfully serve and protect their communities; and

WHEREAS, Detective Wyche was a proud member of Philadelphia's first all-Black detective unit, the renowned Dick Anderson Squad, also known nationally as the "Bronze Gang Busters," which was organized under the leadership of detective Dick Anderson; and

WHEREAS, Detective Wyche and the Dick Anderson Squad were pioneers in law enforcement, breaking racial barriers while achieving extraordinary success in advancing public safety through professionalism, discipline, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Detective Wyche served as a homicide detective with distinction and earned widespread respect for his commitment to justice and his dedication to the citizens of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Detective Wyche was personally selected as part of the security detail for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights leader's visits to Philadelphia, reflecting the immense trust placed in him as a protector, public servant and man of character; and

WHEREAS, Detective Wyche was recognized throughout his lifetime for his extraordinary service, including receiving the Liberty Bell Honor from Mayor John F. Street in 2007, and later being honored by the Philadelphia Police Commissioner and the Guardian Civic League for his groundbreaking contributions to law enforcement and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Detective Wyche and his family, were also participants in the historic Mt. Airy greenlining experiment, helping to advance racial integration and equitable housing opportunities in Philadelphia neighborhoods during a critical era of social change; and

WHEREAS, Detective Samuel P. Wyche, Sr. leaves behind a legacy as a pioneering African American detective, civil rights-era protector, devoted husband and father, mentor, and servant leader whose life and work strengthened both the Philadelphia Police Department and the City of Philadelphia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes Detective Samuel P. Wyche, Sr. for his groundbreaking service to the City of Philadelphia, his contributions to civil rights and public safety, and his enduring legacy during National Police Week 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to the family of Detective Samuel P. Wyche, Sr. as evidence of the sincere respect, admiration, and gratitude of the Council of the City of Philadelphia.