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### **DETROIT PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR DETROIT'S MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FROM THE FLINN FOUNDATION**

**May 6, 2021 (Detroit)** – The Detroit Public Safety Foundation (DPSF) has received a two-year, \$200,000 grant from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation for the Detroit Police Department's collaborative effort to better support citizens experiencing mental health challenges. The Flinn Foundation is the first private donor to officially support the collaborative effort between Detroit Police Department (DPD), Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) and the City of Detroit's Housing and Revitalization Department. This Behavioral Health Co-Response Piolet Program was created to improve police and community relationships while addressing the mental health needs of citizens in the City of Detroit.

The partnership includes DWIHN training Detroit Police Officers, 911 call takers and homeless outreach workers in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) which helps deescalate situations involving those who are mentally ill or are experiencing a mental or emotional crisis. In addition, DWIHN is embedding behavioral health specialists in the 911 call center, homeless outreach teams, and police response units. Together, these specialists will help connect these individuals with mental health challenges to relevant support services.

This three-pronged approach is a comprehensive response to an important issue impacting safety and incarceration rates as well as providing institutional mental health support for those in need. The Detroit Public Safety Foundation is working with the Detroit Police Department and City of Detroit to help secure additional funding from private donors to advance the program. "We are grateful to our community partners, such as the Flinn Foundation, for supporting this initiative," said Detroit Police Chief James E. Craig. "Throughout my career in law enforcement, I have spoken about mental illness and the impact it can have on the safety of our community. Since we launched this initiative, it has allowed us to be more proactive in connecting citizens with the resources they need. Mental health is a serious issue, and no one agency or organization can solve it alone. But together we can address it more affectively."

"The Flinn Foundation stepped up in a big way to support this project. With a project of this scope and size, it is imperative to have the support of our local foundations and donors as well. We look forward to working with more private donors to advance this partnership," said Patti Kukula, Executive Director of the Detroit Public Safety Foundation. Eric Doeh, Interim CEO of DWIHN adds, "We are definitely grateful to the Flinn Foundation for its contribution and ongoing leadership in improving the lives of those we serve."

The program was launched in late 2020 and will continue to expand as the need is great: Approximately 35% of the inmates in the Wayne County Jail have a history of mental illness and DPD responds to at least 20 mental health calls for service every day, 70% of which are categorized as violent.

To learn more about the Detroit Public Safety Foundation, or to donate to Detroit's first responders, visit the website at <http://www.detroitpublicsafety.org/>

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Detroit Public Safety Foundation facilitates donations from the community on behalf of the Detroit Police and Detroit Fire Departments. Through generous donations from the public as well as community partners, the Detroit Public Safety Foundation is able to provide resources for training, new equipment, state-of-the-art technology and community programs which would otherwise not be funded.