

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Officer Zachary Cottongim Memorial
2 Highway in Jefferson County.

3 WHEREAS, on December, 18, 2021, Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD)
4 Officer Zachary Cottongim was tragically killed in the line of duty while attending to an
5 abandoned vehicle on Interstate 64 in Louisville, when he was struck by a motorist who
6 had lost control of their vehicle; and

7 WHEREAS, Zachary Cottongim was a graduate of Edmonson County High School,
8 and went on to receive his degree in Criminal Justice from Daymar College; and

9 WHEREAS, Zachary Cottongim fulfilled his lifelong dream when he was hired as
10 an LMPD officer in September 2014, and at the time of his death, was assigned to the
11 First Division, which includes the Portland, Russell, and Butchertown neighborhoods;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the tragic accident that cost the life of this bright, talented young
14 officer had an immediate and profound effect on the entire department, according to
15 LMPD Chief Erika Shields, who stated, "There's an enormous amount of pain for many
16 people in a multitude of assignments. He trained officers, he worked different details. It's
17 heartbreaking. There's not much you can offer folks especially when there's a death that's
18 so senseless and avoidable."; and

19 WHEREAS, the death of Officer Zachary Cottongim was an especially profound
20 loss for the department because his father, Dale Cottongim, is also an LMPD officer, and
21 his wife, Jamie, works as a civilian process technician for the department; and

22 WHEREAS, at his funeral service, Officer Zachary Cottongim was eulogized as a
23 shining example of what a police officer should be, as evidenced by a story of him
24 supplying a bus ticket and helping to pay part of the rehabilitation costs of an individual
25 struggling with addiction, and the attendees were encouraged to "Be Like Zach" every day
26 of their lives; and

27 WHEREAS, outside of his life as a police officer, Zachary Cottongim was a doting

1 father and a loving husband who cherished every minute with his family and made time
2 to play with his sons each night before bed, no matter how busy he was or how much his
3 job demanded of him; and

4 WHEREAS, Officer Zachary Cottongim is survived by his loving wife, Jamie; his
5 two sons, Riley and Alexander; his father, Dale Cottongim; his mother, Pamela Perkins;
6 five brothers and sisters; a large extended and blended family; the entire Metro Louisville
7 Police Department; and an entire community who mourns the loss of one of their
8 protectors; and

9 WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of Officer Zachary Cottongim is eminently
10 worthy of tangible public recognition, no matter how inadequate such a gesture might be;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

13 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate Interstate 64 in Jefferson
14 County, from the Story Avenue overpass to the Grinstead Drive overpass, as the "Officer
15 Zachary Cottongim Memorial Highway" and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of
16 this Resolution, erect appropriate signs denoting this designation.