

## ***25 Years of Ohio Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program State of Ohio Proclamation***

**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio recognizes Ohio's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs for their 25 years of enduring partnerships between law enforcement, the mental health and substance use and developmental disabilities systems, and individuals living with mental illness and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, CIT programs are community partnership programs essential to the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals with mental illness and related disabilities in the community to help people experiencing mental health crises receive a safe and effective response and be connected to the treatment and support they need rather than unnecessarily be arrested and/or incarcerated; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement agencies and peer-led organizations have partnered with mental health providers to provide trauma-informed and evidence-based training to law enforcement and other first responders in CIT Programs across the state; Ohio has CIT trained law enforcement officers in all 88 counties and this training continues to be offered; training to become skilled in recognizing and de-escalating a mental illness crisis combined with knowledge about safely connecting individuals to local mental health resources, and other partners for treatment and support, reduces the risk of injury or violence equally for both officers and those experiencing a crisis, and reduces the incarceration of individuals experiencing the crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIT program partnerships that provide specialized training have reduced harm and created positive outcomes for individuals with mental illness and related disabilities, and the experience of CIT trained officers has resulted in a shift of the culture among law enforcement officers, increasing empathy and reducing the stigma around mental illness and leading officers to be proactive in addressing mental illness in their communities and to advocate for improved services for individuals with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in bringing CIT programs and building support across whole communities with collaborative partnerships, and the call for CIT trained officers to respond has created trust and more communication between community partners, and better outcomes for crisis situations with empathetic, supportive law enforcement response, and the enhancement of local crisis response and mental health systems; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that we, Governor Mike DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel, do recognize the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ohio Crisis Intervention Team

*Official Signature and Seal*