



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

February 6, 2025

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti
Founder and Executive Director
National Police Defense Foundation

Dear Mr. Occhipinti,

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the New York Field Office, I am honored to attend the National Police Defense Foundation's (NPDF) 30th Anniversary 2025 Awards Gala and extend our highest commendations to all of the distinguished honorees on their remarkable achievements.

The NPDF has assisted law enforcement officers, families, children, and victims of public safety and crime during adversity for three decades. The foundation's commitment to helping the general public and providing invaluable programs to our communities is commendable. While we live in a world where challenges and changes are constant, I find it imperative that our officers, children, and families can depend on foundations, such as the NPDF, to provide support. Whether through legal assistance, medical aid, or financial relief, I am proud to encourage the NPDF's efforts to promote public safety and protect our dedicated law enforcement officers.

Through programs such as Operation Kids, the foundation has promoted public safety by providing children with free identification cards and assisting with cases involving missing children. Another key program, SAFE COP, offers justice for officers wrongfully accused, advocacy for officer rights, and assistance to officers injured in the line of duty.

The strength of our community depends on our willingness to support each other. I wish continued success to the foundation's exceptional work and the distinguished honorees who will continue to impact today's society. Once again, I would like to thank the NPDF for upholding our shared mission values and your continued efforts to support law enforcement officers and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. J. Russo", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Francis J. Russo
Director, Field Operations
New York Field Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection