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VILLAGE OF
Buffalo Grove

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

Buffalo Grove Police Chief Testifies Before President's Commission on Law Enforcement Panel

Buffalo Grove, IL. – Buffalo Grove Police Chief and newly installed International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) President Steven Casstevens testified as an expert on police officer safety and wellness for the President's Commission on Law Enforcement on February 27, 2020. The panel was held in conjunction with the IACP Officer Safety and Wellness Symposium which took place February 27-29 in Miami, Florida.

During his testimony, Casstevens stated, "The time has come to give the mental health and wellness of officers the same focused care and attention as we give to their physical safety."

One of the cornerstones of Casstevens' IACP presidency is focused on police officer mental health and wellness, particularly on officer suicides. Casstevens has been a strong advocate for reducing the stigma associated with mental illness, and has spoken in front of groups locally, nationally and internationally on these topics. One of his main goals is to ensure support and resources are provided to officers experiencing mental illness. Casstevens is additionally involved in the Blue H.E.L.P. organization, which helps officers in crisis, and provides resources for families of officers who have taken their own lives.

The Commission addresses critical issues facing law enforcement professionals; information provided during this event assists members in understanding the range of challenges experienced by law enforcement professionals that can contribute to mental illness.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 800-273-8255 and available to anyone who is suicidal or experiencing emotional distress. Police officers in crisis can also visit **bluehelp.org** for additional resources.

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