

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

I write to bring the department's attention to a great American, Floridian, and law enforcement officer who was tragically killed in the line of duty one year ago: Orlando Police Department Lieutenant Debra Clayton. I respectfully encourage your department to further honor the ideals and efforts she undertook by considering designating the Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) Community Policing Development (CPD) program as the "Lieutenant Debra Clayton Community Policing Development Program." Furthermore, I respectfully ask that your department engage with my office to identify a suitable grant program to honor Lieutenant Clayton's work should you determine that the CPD program is not appropriate.

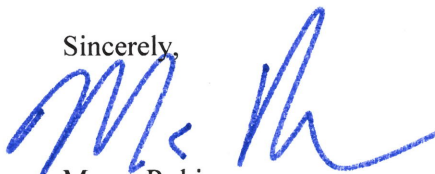
Lieutenant Clayton was a 17-year veteran of the Orlando Police Department, but her efforts to improve her community were not limited to dutifully enforcing the law. Lieutenant Clayton was a dedicated volunteer in her community and selflessly devoted countless hours to local organizations supporting youth development programs and advocating against bullying and violence. Her contribution to improving law enforcement's relations with the communities they serve is commendable, and we should commemorate such efforts and ideals.

Lieutenant Clayton aimed to build trust and mitigate tensions between the black community and law enforcement. At one event in 2016, she said, "The police are here to help you. We are not here to hurt you; we are here to help you." Her desire to foster better relations led her to write a book entitled, "Bridging the Gap Between Law Enforcement and the Community." Her objective was to help her fellow officers improve relations with the communities they protect.

At a time when we must work to bring communities together, Lieutenant Clayton's legacy reminds us that we must continue to work to bridge gaps that might exist in our communities between law enforcement and those they serve. Lieutenant Clayton remains a shining example of such efforts, and I encourage your department to support and promote similar ideals at every opportunity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I stand ready to engage with your department on how we can work together to honor and encourage these important efforts and ideals.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator