

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 384

WHEREAS, Detective Joseph Anthony Azcona of the Newark Police Department was born on May 18, 1998, in the City of Newark, New Jersey, where he lived his whole life; and

WHEREAS, Detective Azcona was raised by a proud family of police officers and firefighters and, from a young age, aspired to carry on his family's legacy of public service; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Detective Azcona fulfilled his lifelong dream of joining the Newark Police Department, and quickly earned the respect of fellow officers and community members alike; and

WHEREAS, through hard work and dedication, Detective Azcona quickly rose to the rank of detective after just three years, becoming a member of a special intelligence unit that investigated major crimes in partnership with federal authorities; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Detective Azcona earned several awards and commendations, including four command citations and a medal for excellence in recognition of his success recovering illegal firearms off the streets; and

WHEREAS, Detective Azcona suffered gunshot wounds while in the line of duty on March 7, 2025, and tragically passed away the following morning; and

WHEREAS, Detective Azcona was a loving son and sibling to five brothers, and will be sorely missed by his family, friends, fellow members of the Newark Police Department, and the people of New Jersey whom are grateful for his service; and

WHEREAS, Detective Azcona lived a life of purpose, honor, and sacrifice, and will be remembered as a hero who fought to serve and protect the city in which he lived his whole life; and

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness that we mourn Detective Azcona's sudden passing, and extend our deepest sympathy and gratitude to his family, friends, and colleagues;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Friday, March 14, 2025, in recognition and mourning of Newark Police Detective Joseph Azcona.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
13th day of March,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Five,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Ninth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor