



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Libby@CommunicationsCounsel.com

August 21, 2025

PROTECT OHIO POLICE URGES MOVEMENT ON LARRY HENDERSON ACT FOLLOWING PAROLE FOR COP KILLER

COLUMBUS, OH – Protect Ohio Police (POP) is urging legislative action on the Larry Henderson Act (HB 372) following cop killer George Clayton being given parole.

The bill, sponsored by State Representatives Cindy Abrams and Phil Plummer and named for slain Hamilton County Sheriff’s Deputy Larry Henderson, was introduced in June, and no further action has been taken. The Bill has not yet even been referred to a committee.

Protect Ohio Police put out a Facebook post warning legislators about the lack of action.

“Police need you,” the message said. “This bill could – SHOULD – be passed in a day. It seeks to protect the lives of peace officers, prosecutors, first responders, and military members who are killed in the line of duty by mandating the death penalty or life in prison with no parole for adult offenders convicted of killing an individual in those protected roles.”

George Clayton was originally given the death sentence when he and three other men murdered Bedford Heights Police Detective William Prochazka in cold blood in 1975. When the death penalty was overturned in 1978, the four murderers received life sentences instead, but last week, the Ohio Parole Board ruled that Clayton can be released on parole in October.

Outrageous.

Prochazka’s granddaughter Jessica Riley shared her grief following the Parole Board’s Decision on Facebook.

“The Parole Board’s decision is not only a betrayal of my family, but a betrayal of every law enforcement officer in this state,” Riley wrote. “By setting cop-killers free, the Board sends a chilling message: that the lives of officers who give everything to protect Ohio can be bargained away. That their sacrifices are negotiable.” We agree with every word Ms. Riley said!

Protect Ohio Police applauds pro-police legislation, and opposes anti-police measures, but there's also a middle ground – complicit silence where legislators say they support laws enforcement, but no action ever gets taken. The POP coalition wants the General Assembly to know we are watching and taking note – complicit silence is just as ominous as a “no” vote.

To learn more about POP, visit ProtectOhioPolice.org.

###