

# City of Jacksonville

Jacksonville Police Department  
Jarad L. Phelps, Chief of Police  
PO Box 128 • Jacksonville NC 28541-0128 • 910 455-6403

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the funding request submitted by **One Place of Onslow County** for the Officer Wellness and Child Abuse Response Initiative through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program.

The Jacksonville Police Department has worked in close partnership with One Place and its Child Advocacy Center for many years. Their team provides the structure and coordination that allows investigators, prosecutors, child protective services, and medical professionals to work together effectively in cases involving child abuse and exploitation. This multidisciplinary approach has greatly strengthened our investigative efforts while ensuring that child victims receive the compassionate and professional care they deserve.

The work of investigating crimes against children requires investigators to confront some of the most difficult and emotionally challenging situations encountered in law enforcement. Providing officers with access to trauma-informed training, peer support, and wellness resources is essential to sustaining the professionals who are committed to protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

The proposed **Law Enforcement Resilience and Training Suite** within the Child Advocacy Center will provide a dedicated environment where officers can receive training, access wellness resources, and collaborate with partner agencies on complex investigations. This space will allow law enforcement agencies across the region to train together, share expertise, and strengthen the coordinated response necessary for these cases.

The Jacksonville Police Department values its partnership with One Place and strongly supports this initiative. I respectfully encourage your support for this request as an important investment in both officer wellbeing and the effective investigation of crimes against children.

Sincerely,



Jarad L. Phelps  
*Chief of Police*  
*Jacksonville Police Department*



## Office of the District Attorney

Fifth Prosecutorial District

**Ernie Lee**  
District Attorney

602 Anne Street  
Jacksonville, NC 28540

March 9, 2026

Onslow County  
910-478-3610  
Duplin County  
910-275-7010  
Jones County  
910-478-3610  
Sampson County  
910-596-6610

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the funding request submitted by One Place of Onslow County for the Officer Wellness and Child Abuse Response Initiative through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. As the District Attorney for North Carolina's four-county 5th Prosecutorial District, I work closely with law enforcement agencies and One Place's Child Advocacy Center in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children. For many years, the Child Advocacy Center has played a critical role in strengthening the coordination between investigators, prosecutors, child protective services, and medical professionals. This multidisciplinary model ensures that child victims are served in a trauma-informed environment while investigators gather the evidence necessary to build strong cases and pursue justice in the courtroom.

As a career prosecutor I understand the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases require extraordinary care, professionalism, and coordination among multiple agencies. One Place has consistently provided the infrastructure that allows these partners to work together effectively while minimizing additional trauma to victims and their families. Their partnership with law enforcement has significantly strengthened our ability to investigate complex cases and hold offenders accountable. Having the Child Advocacy Center in Onslow County has played an integral part in achieving justice in very challenging but serious cases. Having a place where child victims can be professionally interviewed about the most tragic sexual or physical child abuse imaginable provides some degree of comfort for the victims and allows the victims and families with some degree of closure when the State can present the best case possible. I have personally tried many sexual and physical abuse cases in my career and undoubtedly having a Child Advocacy Center has helped this office achieve justice in many cases.

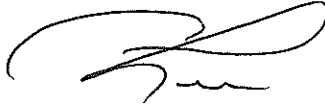
The proposed Law Enforcement Resilience and Training Suite within the Child Advocacy Center will further strengthen this work by providing investigators with access to trauma-informed training, wellness resources, and a dedicated space for interagency collaboration. Supporting the wellbeing and preparedness of investigators is essential to maintaining the effectiveness of the multidisciplinary team that is central to the successful prosecution of crimes against children.

I strongly support this request and believe that this investment will enhance our region's ability to protect vulnerable children, strengthen investigations, and ensure that offenders are held accountable through the justice system.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to public safety in Eastern North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernie Lee", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ernie Lee  
District Attorney

# City of Jacksonville

---



*Sammy Phillips*  
Mayor

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the funding request submitted by **One Place of Onslow County** for the **Officer Wellness and Child Abuse Response Initiative** through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program.

As Mayor of the City of Jacksonville and a retired law enforcement officer, I have seen firsthand the importance of strong partnerships between community organizations and law enforcement in protecting children and pursuing justice for victims of abuse. For many years, One Place and its Child Advocacy Center have worked closely with local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, child protective services, and medical professionals to coordinate the investigation of crimes against children in our community. Their work has been instrumental in ensuring that child victims are served in a compassionate, trauma-informed environment while investigators are able to gather the evidence necessary to hold offenders accountable.

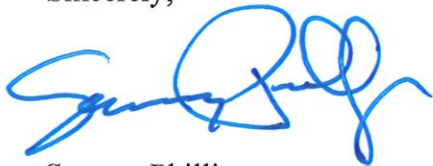
The work of investigating crimes against children is among the most difficult responsibilities in law enforcement. Officers assigned to these cases must confront complex investigations and emotionally challenging situations that require extraordinary professionalism and resilience. The proposed **Officer Wellness and Child Abuse Response Initiative**, including the development of a Law Enforcement Resilience and Training Suite within the Child Advocacy Center, will provide investigators with access to specialized training, wellness resources, and a collaborative environment where agencies can work together to strengthen investigative practices.

This initiative will support law enforcement agencies serving our community, including the Jacksonville Police Department, Onslow County Sheriff's Office, state investigators, and federal and military partners connected to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. By strengthening the wellbeing and preparedness of investigators, this project will enhance our collective ability to protect children, support victims and their families, and ensure that justice is pursued effectively.

The City of Jacksonville values the longstanding partnership between One Place and the law enforcement agencies serving our region. I respectfully encourage your support for this important initiative that will further strengthen the mission of law enforcement and the protection of children across Eastern North Carolina.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sammy Phillips", with a large, stylized initial "S" and "P".

Sammy Phillips  
Mayor



717 Court Street  
Jacksonville, NC 28540  
(910) 455-3113  
Onslowsheriffnc.gov

# Onslow County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Christopher D. Thomas

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy,

On behalf of the **Onslow County Sheriff's Office**, I am pleased to offer my full support for the funding request submitted by **One Place and its Child Advocacy Center** through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program.

For many years, our office has partnered closely with One Place in the investigation of child abuse and exploitation cases. Their Child Advocacy Center provides the environment and multidisciplinary coordination that allows investigators, prosecutors, child protective services, and medical professionals to work together effectively while minimizing additional trauma to child victims. The partnership between law enforcement and One Place has been instrumental in strengthening our ability to investigate complex cases and pursue justice for children in our community.

Investigating crimes against children is among the most difficult assignments in law enforcement. Officers and investigators are routinely exposed to traumatic evidence and situations that can take a significant emotional toll over time. The proposed **Officer Wellness and Child Abuse Response Initiative** and the development of a **Law Enforcement Resilience and Training Suite** within the Child Advocacy Center will provide investigators with access to trauma-informed training, wellness services, and peer-support resources that are critically needed in this line of work.

In addition to supporting officer wellbeing, the proposed training suite will create a regional space where law enforcement agencies can come together for training and collaboration related to crimes against children. This will strengthen coordination among investigators from local, state, and federal agencies who work together on these cases.

The continued partnership between One Place and law enforcement has made a meaningful difference in protecting children and strengthening investigations in our community. I strongly support this request and believe the proposed initiative will significantly enhance our ability to serve victims and pursue justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Thomas".

Sheriff Chris Thomas  
Onslow County Sheriff's Office