

22 July 2024

Proposal: Police and Fire Department Challenge Coins

History: The tradition of challenge coins dates back centuries, with origins possibly rooted in the Roman Empire where soldiers were rewarded with specially minted coins with their legions on them for their achievements. Over time, these coins evolved into mementos of camaraderie and belonging. In more recent history, during World War I, challenge coins gained prominence when a squadron of American volunteers used them as identification and symbols of unity, after one of their pilots used it as a way to identify themselves to the French after escaping the German's POW camp. This tradition continues today across various sectors including military, law enforcement, and firefighting, symbolizing camaraderie, recognition, and mutual respect. The challenge usually revolves around a drinking game amongst military personnel where the challenger challenges their buddies to produce their coins. Failure to produce a coin require the coinless to buy a round. If everyone has a coin the challenger is required to buy a round. In law enforcement and firefighting sector, they become more of a collecting item that signifies mutual respect and appreciation. Though within police and fire departments the challenge coin has become a symbol of morale, belonging and way to show comradery much like swapping patches in the past.

Purpose: The proposed dual Police and Fire Department challenge coin aims to foster camaraderie and boost morale within our departments. As symbols of recognition, these coins will serve as tangible reminders of service and dedication. They will not only strengthen bonds within our teams but also act as tokens of appreciation that can be shared with other departments, enhancing collaboration and solidarity across public safety sectors.

Implementation:

1. **Design:** The coin design is currently being developed with myself and each department Chief. Chief Sullivan has requested to get input from the officers of the department. The coin for the Fire Department requires on edit of removing the white around the state of Vermont. The current design is shared back with each department, but this may change based on the Police Officers' input.
2. **Distribution:** Each member of the police and fire departments will receive a challenge coin as a token of appreciation and recognition of their service at the discretion of Chief Sullivan and Chief Chevalier
3. **Tradition:** Embracing the tradition of challenge coins, recipients will be encouraged to carry their coin at all times, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie.

Proof:



Cost: Challenge Coins Plus 100 coins at \$416 + \$125 mold (2 year life span) = \$541.00 for Police Department



If Fire Department uses same back \$416.00 for 100 coins + \$62.50 for shared back mold = \$478.50

Conclusion: The Police and Fire Department challenge coins are not just a symbol but a testament to the dedication of our departments. By adopting this tradition, we honor our shared commitment to serving and protecting our community. I propose that we move forward with the creation and distribution of these coins to enhance morale within our departments.

