



United States Capitol Police

Labor Committee

1320 G Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

Telephone: 202-544-4813

www.uscp-fop.com



PRESS RELEASE

February 26, 2021

Union reaction to security review

Multiple news agencies have reported that the draft security review by retired Lt. General Honore is recommending the hiring of an additional 1,000 officers, the establishment of a National Guard Quick Reaction Force, and permanent fencing around the Capitol.

Union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou says “I look forward to reviewing Lt. General Honore’s full recommendations when they are made available. The USCP made it clear in their budget submission to the Appropriations Committee in February 2020 that we did not have enough officers to meet mission requirements. The fact we were understaffed was no secret.”

If the preliminary reports of the review are accurate, Lt. General Honore is calling for the hiring of an addition 1,000 officers. Approximately 350 of these officers would be detailed to provide personal security to Members of Congress.

Chairman Papathanasiou added “Recruiting, hiring, and training these additional officers is going to take years. As the USCP'S mission has increased drastically over the last few years, our manpower hasn't and we need more manpower, but my biggest concern right now is retaining the officers we already have. I have warned USCP leadership and Members of Congress that many USCP officers are on the fence about whether to stay with this department.”

“Many officers that are retirement eligible are seriously looking at turning in their retirement papers. Since January 6th, several Officers have retired as a result. Additionally, I cannot tell you the number of younger officers who have confided

in me since the insurrection who are actively looking at other police agencies or even new careers.”

“There are two things driving officers to leave this department. First, is a lack of trust in our leadership who clearly failed us on January 6th. I think it says a lot that 92 percent of officers who came out to vote, voted against Acting Chief Pittman in a vote of no confidence recently.”

“The second is that many federal, state and local agencies offer better working conditions and better retirement benefits than the USCP. If Congress wants to recruit and retain officers to meet the heightened security threat, they are going to have address both the leadership and quality of life issues driving officers to leave this department.”

When asked about the idea of fencing, Chairman Papathanasiou stated “one of the primary challenges on January 6th is that we did not have a fixed perimeter that we could easily defend. The bicycle racks that were put in place did not stop anyone and they were actually used as a weapons against the officers by the insurrectionists.”

“We need to be able to establish a fixed perimeter for future protests. Whether it's a permanent fence or temporary that can quickly be deployed is open for discussion. However, we definitely need a solution so that January 6th never happens again.”