



United States Capitol Police

Labor Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

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Capitol Police Officers: No Confidence Vote in Leadership

The Executive Board of the Capitol Police Union has called for rank-and-file members to deliver a vote of no confidence in the senior leadership of the U.S. Capitol Police.

The Board has taken this unprecedented step after reviewing senior leadership's handling of the January 6th insurrection at the Capitol that led to six deaths, and to injuries to dozens of officers.

This includes the following admission by Acting Chief Pittman in testimony to the House Appropriations Committee on January 26th:

“By January 4th, the Department knew that the January 6th event would not be like any of the previous protests held in 2020. We knew that militia groups and white supremacists organizations would be attending. We also knew that some of these participants were intending to bring firearms and other weapons to the event. We knew that there was a strong potential for violence and that Congress was the target.”

The senior leaders cited for the vote of no confidence are Acting Chief Pittman, Assistant Chief Thomas, Acting Assistant Chief Gallagher, and Deputy Chiefs Bowen and Waldow.

Union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou says the Board understands the gravity of the vote and it was not a decision taken lightly.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “Last week we laid to rest Officer Brian Sicknick who died defending the Capitol. USCP and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) each had an officer take their own lives. Collectively, approximately 140

USCP and MPD officers have sustained injuries, many of them serious. Some of these injured officers may never be able to return to duty.”

The Board concluded there was no alternative to the no confidence motion, given the litany of failures by senior leadership.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “The enormity of the multiple leadership failures both in leading up to the insurrection, and in the Department’s response to it, have convinced us there is no other choice. The leadership has failed us, and we have paid a terrible price.”

The Union’s Executive Board believes the systemic failures of this Department cannot be addressed without new leadership.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “We have leaders in this Department whom we trust and who we know will work with the union to make the changes that are greatly needed. These leaders exist within the Department, but not at the Chief, Assistant Chief, or Deputy Chief level.”

While the Executive Board has called for, and supports, a vote of no confidence, they have counseled union members to vote their conscience given the seriousness of the undertaking.

The Board expects to have the voting commence by the end of the week.