



# United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Capitol Police Officers: No Confidence in Leadership**

Capitol Police officers have delivered an overwhelming vote of No Confidence in the senior leadership of the U.S. Capitol Police.

The Executive Board of the Capitol Police Union called for rank-and-file members to consider a vote of no confidence late last week following the senior leadership's mishandling of the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6th.

The Board took this unprecedented step after reviewing details of the events on, and leading up to, January 6<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent deaths of 6 people, and injuries to approximately 140 Capitol and Metropolitan Police officers.

The results of the No Confidence vote were decisive:

- Acting Chief Pittman 92 percent
- Assistant Chief Thomas 96 percent
- Acting Assistant Chief Gallagher 84 percent
- Deputy Chief Bowen 85 percent
- Deputy Chief Pickett 91 percent
- Deputy Chief Waldow 64 percent
- Captain Ben Smith 97 percent

Union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou says, "The past week of the impeachment trial showed Members of Congress, and the entire country, devastating details of the violence that Capitol Police officers faced during the insurrection. It was the darkest day in the history of the Department."

The Union Chairman says “The results of our No Confidence vote are overwhelming because our leadership clearly failed us. We know because we were there.”

“Our leaders did not properly plan for the protest nor prepare officers for what they were about to face. This despite the fact they knew days before that the protest had the potential to turn violent.”

“We still have no answers why leadership failed to inform or equip us for what was coming on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Our lives, as well Members of Congress and staff whom we are sworn to protect, were put at risk.”

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “The officers on duty during the insurrection have paid a terrible price for the leadership failures. We lost fellow Officer Sicknick in the line of duty, and one Capitol Police and one Metropolitan Police officer have tragically taken their own lives. We have approximately 140 officers injured, some of whom may never return to duty.”

“We hope Congressional leaders and the entire Capitol Hill community understands that continuing with the current USCP leadership is not an option. The current leadership is just a continuation of the past regimes on this Department and there needs to be accountability. Their failures are inexcusable. This vote, which the majority of the officers in the bargaining unit participated in, shows they have lost our trust. The anger in this department is widespread and the trust that has been broken it is not going to be regained.”

The Union Chairman emphasized, “There are existing leaders in this Department who are up to the task. Leaders who understand the mission and are interested in doing their job and not just keeping their job. Leaders who will work with the union to make the changes that are needed to secure the Capitol complex. They exist just not at the Acting Chief, Assistant Chief, or Deputy Chief levels.”

“We hope Congressional leaders hear the voice of Capitol Police officers and take action. We appreciate the kind words we have received since the insurrection, but we need real change at the Department and that starts with a clean slate at the top.”