



United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

1320 G Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003
Telephone: 202-544-4813 Fax: 202-544-5918
www.uscp-fop.com



PRESS RELEASE

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Capitol Police Union Welcomes Retirement Fix

The Capitol Police Union thanks Congressman Gerry Connelly, Congressman Tim Ryan, and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton for their work to fix a longstanding problem with the U.S. Capitol Police retirement system.

U.S. Capitol Police officers work excessive amounts of mandatory overtime in order to secure the Capitol. In 2020 for example, officers work over 700,000 hours of mandatory overtime and the FY 22 budget calls for almost \$53 million in additional overtime expenditures.

This overtime is required for two reasons. The first is that the USCP has a chronic lack of manpower. The USCP is already 233 officers below their authorized level. More than 70 officers have retired or resigned since the January 6th violent riot at the U.S. Capitol that left one officer dead, one officer taking his own life, and more than 80 officers seriously injured. Complicating things further, approximately 25 percent of the force can retire in the next 5 years. This is due to the hiring surge that occurred after 9/11. After September, all of the officers hired will have 20 years of service and will become retirement eligible.

The second driver is the unpredictable Congressional schedule. Officers whose shift are completed are often held over if Congress has late votes.

Union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou thanked all of the Members for taking action “following the tragic death of Officer Billy Evans in April, I met personally with Congressman Connelly and asked for his help. USCP officers work a tremendous amount of overtime and none of it counts as part of their base pay for retirement

purposes. Congressman Connelly never hesitated and told me on the spot he would help.”

“Most of federal law enforcement, and many state and local police departments, allow some portion of overtime to be counted for retirement purposes. The fact that none of our overtime counted toward retirement system was a longstanding problem that hindered officer recruitment and retention. This provision, which mirrors what is in place for Customs officers, will credit half their overtime toward retirement subject to a cap and phase in period.”

“I also want to thank Legislative Branch Appropriations Chairman Ryan and subcommittee member Congresswoman Wexton for including this provision as part of the FY 2022 Appropriations Bill” Chairman Papathanasiou said.