



United States Capitol Police

Labor Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Capitol Police Union: “Accountability Must Start At The Top”

On September 11th the U.S. Capitol Police issued a press release detailing the results of their internal investigations into the conduct of front-line officers during the January 6th attack on the Capitol.

According to the Department more than 1,200 US Capitol Police officers responded to the attack on January 6th. The department investigated the actions of 26 officers and completely cleared 20 of those officers. Six officers face discipline for violations that ranged from conduct unbecoming of an officer, improper remarks, failure to comply with directives to the improper dissemination of information.

Chairman of the Capitol Police Officers’ Union, Gus Papathanasiou, says front-line officers now need to know when senior leaders will be held accountable for serious lapses in their duties, leading up to the attack and during the response.

Chairman Papathanasiou said “I believe in accountability. Even one incident of an officer not fulfilling their duty is one too many. Yet, we have leaders still on the payroll who completely failed to fulfill their duties, up to and during the Capitol attack, who have evaded all consequences. Some of those leaders that were in charge on January 6th failed miserably on that day and have since been promoted as they hide in plain sight.”

“Never forget, none of this should have ever happened. Our officers should never have been forced into hand-to-hand combat on the steps of the Capitol and engaging rioters outside and inside the buildings. If our leaders had done their job, there would have been no breach of the Capitol that day.”

“First and foremost, the breach of the Capitol was a failure of intelligence, communication and preparation at the higher levels by the USCP. Assistant Chief Pittman was in charge of Protective Operations and Intelligence leading up to January 6th. Prior to the attack she failed to alert and prepare front-line officers to the potential threat they were facing or drive a more robust show of force posture that day. Sadly Assistant Chief Pittman testified before Congress earlier this year stating that our posture would not have changed. ”

“During the attack, Assistant Chief Pittman was missing in action as were many of our leaders. Yet today, Assistant Chief Pittman is back at her old job handling Protective Operations and Intelligence after being temporarily promoted to the role of Acting Chief.”

“Our union took the unprecedented step in February of calling for a vote of No Confidence as Officers voted overwhelmingly for these leaders to be removed due to their gross incompetence.”

“No officer who responded on January 6th walked away unscathed physically or mentally. We paid a horrible price for the failures of our leaders.”

“Eighty USCP officers were seriously injured during the attack and our colleagues at the Metropolitan Police Department had sixty officers injured. Some of their injuries are so severe, those officers will never return to duty. Their careers in law enforcement are over and they’ll live with the chronic pain of their injuries for the rest of their lives.”

“Yet here we are today, with investigations completed into the conduct of front-line officers there no further clarity on when those leaders will be held accountable. We are concerned that this will be the sum total of the efforts to hold responsible those who failed to fulfill their duty on January 6th.”

“We must ensure accountability is leveled across all echelons of law enforcement and especially for those who were expected to lead that day. Failure to do so is a deep disservice to this country and does not bode well for the health of the USCP as we face imminent and ongoing threats.”