



United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Capitol Police Union Commends Front-line Officers

Hundreds of front-line Capitol Police Officers and their colleagues from the Metropolitan Police Department joined with other local and federal law enforcement agencies to safeguard the U.S. Capitol today, as demonstrators rallied to support rioters jailed for the attack on the complex on January 6th.

Chairman of the Capitol Police Officers' Union, Gus Papathanasiou, says, "I'm proud of every single officer out there today, many of whom pulled double shifts, working around the clock to protect the Capitol."

"Given the events of January 6th, every officer should be commended for returning to face a crowd of protesters, while acutely aware of the deaths and injuries among their colleagues after the Capitol attack."

Capitol Police officers are working in an environment of elevated threats with multiple deadly incidents and bomb scares since January 6th, including the murder of an officer in April and a car bomb threat in August.

While Members of Congress and their staff were largely absent from the building today, Capitol Police officers remained on duty to ensure the integrity of the complex and keep the Capitol secure for Members and their staff to safely return.

With the Union's support, the Department installed anti-scale fencing around the perimeter and officers presented a robust, coordinated force posture before the first of the demonstrators arrived, unlike preparations in advance of January 6th.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “The events of January 6th left an indelible mark on every officer on duty that day. While we have returned to work and faced fresh threats, we’re still waiting for the leadership changes at the top that will reassure us the Department is equally committed to our mission.”

“Today, our officers demonstrated their ongoing commitment to securing the U.S. Capitol. The department must provide the leadership our officers need to keep the faith and continue fulfilling their duty. I know many officers who are exhausted and are considering retirement, as early as the end of this year.”

"Our Officers have spent years dedicated to their mission to protect and serve. They deserve leaders who have their backs and who will strive to make this force stronger and more unified."

“I commend the USCP leadership for the planning, communication, and preparation for today's event. The show of force by the USCP and our partner agencies saw a far more comprehensive, coordinated defense of the Capitol than we had on January 6th. A strong, united front presented a formidable deterrence to any protesters who might have wanted to repeat the violence of January 6th.”

“Capitol Police Officers remain ready to continue their defense of the U.S. Capitol and urge the Department to maintain its engagement with frontline officers, while working to provide them with the leaders they need and deserve.”