



# United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Capitol Police Union – “We must listen to the January 6<sup>th</sup> Whistleblower”**

A former high-ranking USCP official filed a whistleblower complaint on September 28<sup>th</sup> to House and Senate Congressional Leadership alleging serious failures by two senior leaders relating to the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the Capitol.

The Capitol Police Union says the complaint confirms and reinforces the union’s stance that senior USCP leaders have not been held accountable for their role in failing to protect the Capitol that day.

As reported by news outlets and reviewed by the Union, the complaint points to the actions of Assistant Chief for Protective and Intelligence Operations Yogananda Pittman and Deputy Chief Sean Gallagher.

The complaint details a litany of errors by the two leaders but goes further to allege that while serving as Acting Chief post-January 6<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Chief Pittman lied to Congress about an intelligence report held by the department prior to the attack.

Chairman of the Capitol Police Officers’ Union, Gus Papathanasiou says, “The whistleblower account confirms once again what front-line officers on duty that day personally witnessed and experienced. The Department launched approximately 40 investigations against Officers and Supervisors because of January 6<sup>th</sup>, but the top officials escaped unscathed from any investigation, despite findings in the Senate Report a few months ago, the Inspector General’s reports and the hearings since the 6<sup>th</sup> of January.”

“We stated right from the outset that the breach of the Capitol was first and foremost a failure of intelligence, which resulted in a failure to properly prepare. The officers on duty on January 6<sup>th</sup> paid a horrible price.”

The attack on January 6<sup>th</sup> was the worst security breach since the British burned the Capitol in the War of 1812. An estimated 140 MPD and USCP officers were left seriously injured and the attack endangered the lives of the Vice President, Members of Congress, and the Congressional staff present that day for the election certification.

The whistleblower asserts that Pittman and Gallagher had intelligence prior to January 6<sup>th</sup> that if shared with the rest of the department, would have driven a more robust response from USCP.

This includes the likely issuance of hard gear for riot control, the use of less-than-lethal weapons and setting in motion the deployment of National Guard and other local law enforcement agency personnel in advance of the attack.

Says Chairman Papathanasiou, “We deployed officers on the East and West Fronts of the Capitol without helmets and shields. In some cases, the violent rioters were better equipped than we were.”

“I firmly believe that if we’d had been issued the proper equipment, had the National Guard and our law enforcement partners been on the scene from the beginning, had there been a plan of action in place and had all Officers been briefed and trained in addition to fencing installed (similar to the planning done for this past September 18th event), the Capitol breach on January 6th would likely have never occurred.”

“The front-line officers want to ask Chief Manger and the Congressional leadership, where is the accountability, as Assistant Chief Pittman still supervises intelligence and protective operations? We are no better off today than we were on January 6th.”

“Members of Congress have asked me privately, how can this be allowed to stand after what happened on January 6th? I honestly do not have an answer to that. What I want is for the truth to come out. I agree with Chief Manger that every Officer needs to be heard, whether they are still with the Department, or have retired or resigned, their voices need to be heard.”