

United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

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United States Capitol Police Officers Urge Peaceful Election, Force Readiness

The Capitol Police Officers Union is urging Americans to allow the coming election to proceed peacefully, for the safety of voters and to demonstrate support for all U.S. law enforcement officers.

The Union is calling for the U.S. Capitol Police Department to ensure the department is prepared in the lead up to Tuesday's election and the upcoming election certification and Inauguration in January.

Union Chairman, Gus Papathanasiou says, "The Department must communicate and work with rank-and-file officers as we prepare for this election, the certification and Inauguration – we cannot repeat the failures of four years ago."

Approximately one hundred and forty police officers of the U.S. Capitol and Metropolitan police departments were injured during the attack on the Capitol on January 6th, 2021. One officer died the next day and several other officers who responded to the attack later took their own lives.

The Union had repeatedly warned that systemic failures within the Department and a lack of leadership led to the Capitol being breached on January 6th.

There are early indicators the coming election will be very close and will likely be contested.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, "Our officers will be out in force to protect the Capitol Complex, Members of Congress and their staffs. We trust our fellow Americans to support law enforcement by supporting and respecting our officers by allowing every vote to be counted in a safe, secure election process. There is no place for violence in our elections."

“At the same time, we expect our Department leaders to work with our officers to ensure we can do our jobs to protect the U.S. Capitol if needed, with the resources, manpower and leadership we require.”