



United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

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PRESS RELEASE



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U.S. Capitol Police Officers Alarmed at Interim Chief Appointment

The U.S. Capitol Police Officers' Union is urging the U.S. Capitol Police Board to immediately reconsider its decision to name Sean Gallagher as interim Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police force.

In April, the union publicly advocated for the Capitol Police Board to choose a new Chief with integrity who has earned the trust of the front-line officers, to succeed retiring Chief J. Thomas Manger.

Instead, the Board has elevated an individual who has previously been recommended for termination from the force following allegations of his involvement in a scheme to defraud the USCP of thousands of dollars in an overtime scam.

Further, Gallagher was among the senior officers whose failures on January 6th, 2021, saw Capitol Police Officers underprepared and overwhelmed by rioters during the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Union Chairman, Gus Papathanasiou says, "By any measure, Sean Gallagher fails to meet the standard of trust and integrity required to lead the U.S. Capitol Police force."

"We're astounded the Board would even consider Gallegher for the role. The Capitol Police force cannot continue to see problem officers 'fail upwards', winning promotions instead of demotions commensurate with their actions."

Following the failures of USCP leadership in the January 6th attack, the union undertook a vote of “no confidence” in its leaders, with 84% of the officers voting against then Acting Assistant Chief Sean Gallagher.

Referencing the overtime billing claims, Chairman Papathanasiou says, “Gallagher was among three supervisors implicated in an illegal scheme starting in 2010 to collect overtime they were not entitled to, and he was personally accused of forging his supervisor’s signature.”

“According to a USCP whistleblower, Gallagher forged his time sheets to avoid a cap on overtime, so that he could be paid more. That is not only a violation of policy, but it is also illegal. If a front-line officer did that, they would be fired and most likely referred to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for criminal prosecution.”

An internal USCP memo following an investigation into the fraud, stated, “*The offense is egregious and absent any mitigating factors, warrants nothing less than termination.*”

Instead, Gallagher has continued to be promoted through the ranks.

Chairman Papathanasiou says the Capitol Police Board should remove Gallagher as Interim Chief and he should not be under serious consideration as a successor to Chief Manger.

He says, “The job of Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police is a crucial role that must be filled by a leader who is trusted by the officers. It is their job to not only enforce the law, but also to abide by it.”

“If the Capitol Police Board was previously unaware of this information, they have it now. Certainly, Gallagher’s misconduct and the union’s vote of “no confidence” were broadly known throughout the Department.”

“We ask that the Board rescind the interim appointment, and we look forward to consulting with the Board on choosing a new Chief who can lead the force with the trust of its officers.”

National Journal, 2014 (<https://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2014/07/capitol-police-suspend-three-supervisors-false-overtime-claims/87628/>)

Blaze Media article on whistleblower, 2024

<https://www.theblaze.com/columns/analysis/favoritism-cover-ups-reveal-culture-of-corruption-in-us-capitol-police-leadership>

