



# United States Capitol Police

## Labor Committee

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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### **U.S. Capitol Police Union: No-Confidence Overwhelmingly Passes**

The U.S. Capitol Police Unions House Division delivered an overwhelming vote of no confidence for two senior leaders of the U.S. Capitol Police.

The vote comes after months of talks that failed to address job conditions that have exhausted officers working on the House side of Congress.

The two senior Officials cited for the no-confidence vote were House Division Inspector Brian Verderese and Captain Aaron Robinson. Verderese had 98.14 percent and Robinson had 98.74 percent of the officers vote against them. In advance of the planned vote, the Capitol Police transferred Verderese from the House Division to the Office of Professional Responsibility.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, "The House Division is the single largest division within the U.S. Capitol Police. We've tried repeatedly to work constructively with both Verderese and Robinson. The overwhelming vote of no confidence in both these individuals I hope will serve as a wake-up call to Chief Sullivan."

Since the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. Capitol, U.S. Capitol Police have struggled to hire enough officers given the heightened threat environment and the departure of officers to other federal law enforcement agencies and retirements. Many of the departing officers cite several issues for leaving - the lack of work-life balance, lack of leadership, and the fact that U.S. Capitol Police's retirement system cannot match Executive Branch agencies and local law enforcement departments.

Chairman Papathanasiou continued “House Division officers are being worked to the point of exhaustion. We have officers who are working 6 days and week and because of leave restrictions cannot take time off. Instead of addressing the underlying issue, which is a lack of manpower to meet mission requirements, the leadership in the House Division has decided to unilaterally upend how officers are deployed and then seek to fire officers who made mistakes. That is not leadership and moving Verderese but leaving his policies in place changes nothing for front-line officers.”