



PRESS RELEASE

D.C. POLICE UNION PROVEN RIGHT ON CRIME STAT MANIPULATION – Demands Accountability for MPD Leadership Failure

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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, President

Washington, D.C. – The DC Police Union, representing more than 3,000 active officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), today issues a blistering condemnation of the department's command staff following damning reports from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (USAO-DC) and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. These investigations expose a systemic pattern of deliberate crime data manipulation under Chief Pamela Smith, designed to fabricate the illusion of falling crime rates while actual violent and property crimes surged. This betrayal has left thousands of cases uninvestigated, allowing dangerous criminals to roam free and denying countless victims even a shred of justice. These reports raise serious questions about the timing of Chief Smith's resignation.

The DC Police Union sounded the alarm on these issues back in July, when the President of the Union [stated to NBC4](#), "What we've heard through our members and through members of management...is that this is a directive from the command staff, is that they want to make sure that these classifications of these reports are adjusted over time to make sure that the overall crime stats stay down and this is deliberately done." These reports now confirm that the police union was right, again, and that there is deep-seated corruption within the command staff.

One of the most important findings in these reports was that internal National Incident-Based Reporting System (**NIBRS**) **data reported to the FBI showed a 1.72% increase in violent crime for 2024**, contradicting the DCR's fabricated 28.32% decrease. Turns out crime actually went up!

These reports reveal a toxic culture of coercion, fear, and corruption at the highest levels of MPD. Under Smith's leadership, patrol commanders faced relentless pressure, often through humiliating public beratings at crime briefings, to downgrade serious felonies like Assaults with a Dangerous Weapon (ADW), Robberies, Burglaries, and Motor Vehicle Thefts. This not only distorted the Daily Crime Report (DCR), MPD's public-facing statistics, but also prevented proper investigations: forensic teams were not dispatched, evidence went uncollected, detectives were never even notified, and perpetrators escaped accountability. As a result, residents were gaslit into doubting their own experiences of rising crime, while decisions on home purchases, business openings, and public safety were based on falsified data.

"The command staff's obsession with creating a false sense of safety in the District has endangered lives, allowed criminals to avoid accountability, and eroded public trust," stated Gregg Pemberton, President of the police union. "By misclassifying violent crimes as minor incidents like 'Injured Person to Hospital' or 'Pending Investigation,' they've ensured that shooters, robbers, and even child rapists face no consequences. Victims are left without justice, residents live in fear, and our officers are forced to operate in a department riddled with low morale, abusive and arbitrary discipline, retaliatory transfers, and catastrophic staffing shortages. This isn't leadership, it's corruption, and it must end now."

The union has zero confidence in Assistant Chief Andre Wright and Assistant Chief LaShay Makal, both elevated by Smith and directly implicated in the reports. Wright is notorious for issuing directives to lower crime classifications, while Makal oversaw districts plagued by rampant misclassifications. Their involvement in this scheme demonstrates a profound breach of ethics and integrity as well as an inability to lead. The DC Police Union demands immediate revocation of their police powers and that they immediately be suspended until a disciplinary review can be completed, the same way they have treated commanders accused of lesser offenses.

To make the scale of this scandal clear, the USAO-DC investigation reviewed approximately 5,800 police reports and identified over 1,200 (20%) misclassifications across key categories, representing a staggering failure rate that hid the true extent of crime from the public. Key findings include:

- **Taking Property Without Right (downgraded thefts):** 317 reports reviewed, 248 misclassified (78%)
- **Aggravated Assaults (downgrading more serious violent felonies):** In 2025, 191 reports reviewed, 63 misclassified (33%); in 2024, 355 reviewed, 117 misclassified (33%), including at least 10 that should have been classified as ADWs, leaving gunshot victims without proper forensic response.
- **Pending Investigation (non-criminal classification):** 263 reports reviewed, 179 misclassified (68%), masking ADWs, assaults, and robberies that went unprobed.
- **Injured Person to Hospital (non-criminal classification):** 843 reports reviewed, 156 misclassified (18%), failing to document violent crimes like shootings and stabbings.
- **Unlawful Entry (downgraded burglaries):** 415 of 1,610 reports reviewed, 62 misclassified (15%).
- **Other Categories (violent crimes and crimes against children):** Including 78 of 80 reviewed reports from the Seventh District improperly classified, plus misclassifications in Physical Abuse Allegations (13 of 228 reviewed), Miscellaneous Reports (48 of 2,400 reviewed), and more.

The DC Police Union stands ready to collaborate with local and federal officials to overhaul MPD, ensure accurate reporting, and deliver real justice for DC residents. But first, the corrupt elements at the top must go, no excuses, no delays.