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DC Police Union Responds to Executive Order on Immigration Enforcement, Condemns DC City Council's Failure to Address Policing Crisis

Washington, D.C. – The DC Police Union, representing over 3,000 officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), today responds to Executive Order EO-25-005, issued by Chief of Police Pamela A. Smith, which amends MPD procedures to allow limited cooperation with federal immigration enforcement agencies. This order comes in the wake of President Trump's temporary federal takeover of the MPD on August 11, 2025, a necessary response to the escalating crime crisis in Washington, D.C. The Union supports this federal intervention as a critical step to stabilize public safety but places the blame squarely on the DC City Council for its disastrous legislative failures, which have crippled the MPD and necessitated such measures.

The Union acknowledges that EO-25-005 aligns with federal efforts to address the crime surge exacerbated by the Council's refusal to reform harmful policies, notably their rejection of Mayor Muriel Bowser's proposal in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Support Act to repeal the Sanctuary Values Amendment Act (D.C. Official Code § 24-211.07). The Mayor's attempt to allow greater cooperation with federal immigration authorities was a pragmatic step to restore order, but the Council's override of this proposal demonstrates their continued prioritization of misguided ideology over public safety. This refusal has left the MPD hamstrung, forcing federal intervention to compensate for local failures.

Union Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, "The DC City Council's stubborn adherence to detrimental policies, like the Sanctuary Values Amendment Act and the 2020 Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act, has driven our department to the brink. Mayor Bowser tried to fix this mess in the 2026 budget, but the Council's reckless override has left us with no choice but to rely on federal support. President Trump's takeover of the MPD and this executive order are stopgaps to address a crisis the Council created and refuses to solve."

"We stand with President Trump's recognition of the crime crisis and Mayor Bowser's efforts to align MPD with federal priorities," Pemberton added. "But let's be clear: the DC City Council's refusal to act, ignoring Mayor Bowser's sensible proposal, has forced this federal intervention."

Our officers deserve better, and so do the residents of Washington, D.C. The Council must stop obstructing progress and start supporting real solutions.”

The DC Police Union highlights the following critical issues caused by the Council’s actions:

1. **Harmful Legislation:** The 2020 Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act and the Sanctuary Values Amendment Act have fueled officer burnout, hindered recruitment, and contributed to unprecedented crime rates, leaving neighborhoods vulnerable.
2. **Council’s Rejection of Reform:** The DC City Council’s decision to block Mayor Bowser’s proposed repeal of the Sanctuary Values Amendment Act in the 2026 Budget Support Act perpetuates policies that tie the hands of law enforcement and undermine public safety.
3. **Crippling Staffing Crisis:** Since 2020, the MPD has lost over 600 officers—a 16% reduction—resulting in the lowest staffing levels in decades. The Council’s policies have driven this exodus, leaving officers overworked and unable to effectively protect the city.

The Union calls for the following urgent actions:

1. **Repeal of Detrimental Laws:** The DC City Council must immediately repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act to restore the MPD’s ability to protect Washington, D.C.
2. **Congressional Action:** We urge Congress and the White House to work with the Union to overturn the Council’s harmful legislation, ensuring the MPD can operate effectively.
3. **Investment in MPD:** Long-term solutions require competitive wages, improved facilities, and aggressive recruitment to rebuild the MPD’s workforce.

The DC Police Union remains committed to working with all stakeholders to rebuild a stronger, safer MPD and calls on the DC City Council to reverse its damaging policies immediately.

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