



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DC Police Union Supports President's Recognition of Crime Crisis, Hopes that Feds Pave Way for Fixes to Bad "Reform" Legislation**

Washington, D.C. – The DC Police Union, representing over 3,000 officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), today acknowledges and supports the President's announcement this morning to assume temporary control of the MPD in response to the escalating crime crisis in Washington, DC. The Union agrees that crime is spiraling out of control, and immediate action is necessary to restore public safety. However, we emphasize that federal intervention must be a temporary measure, with the ultimate goal of empowering a fully staffed and supported MPD to protect our city effectively. To achieve this, misguided legislation passed by the DC City Council must be repealed, and we call on Congress and the White House to assist in overturning these detrimental laws. The Union has long warned of the catastrophic consequences of chronic mismanagement, staffing shortages, and radical policies that have crippled the MPD. The President's recognition of this crisis validates our ongoing concerns. The current state of affairs, marked by violent crime surges, historic officer shortages, and eroded morale, requires urgent action. The temporary federal takeover is a necessary step to stabilize the situation, but it is not a long-term solution. The real path forward lies in addressing the root causes of the MPD's challenges, particularly the need for adequate staffing and the reversal of harmful legislation.

Union Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, "We stand with the President in recognizing that Washington, DC, cannot continue on this trajectory. Crime is out of control, and our officers are stretched beyond their limits. The federal intervention is a critical stopgap, but the MPD needs proper staffing and support to thrive. This can only happen by repealing the disastrous policies that have driven out our best officers and hindered recruitment."

The DC Police Union highlights the following critical issues:

1. **Detrimental Legislation:** The 2020 Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act and other misguided laws have fueled officer exodus and hampered recruitment, contributing to record crime rates and public safety failures.

2. Crippling Staffing Shortages: The MPD has lost over 600 officers since 2020, a 16% reduction, leaving the department at its lowest staffing levels in half a century. This undermines our ability to protect neighborhoods and respond effectively to crime.

3. Unsustainable Working Conditions: Officers face grueling overwork, canceled leave, and inadequate facilities, all of which erode morale and compromise their ability to serve.

The Union calls for the following actions to address this crisis:

1. Federal Advocacy for Reform: We urge Congress and the White House to work with the Union over the next month to better understand these issues and support efforts to overturn misguided legislation, paving the way for a fully staffed and effective MPD.

2. Repeal of Harmful Legislation: The DC City Council must immediately repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act and other policies that have proven detrimental to public safety and officer retention.

3. Temporary Federal Support: We welcome the President's intervention as a short-term measure to stabilize the MPD and curb the crime surge, but it must not replace local control and accountability.

4. Investment in Staffing and Resources: Long-term solutions require competitive wages, improved facilities, and robust recruitment to rebuild the MPD's workforce. "We are hopeful that this federal intervention will shine a spotlight on the urgent need for reform," Pemberton added. "The DC Police Union is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure our officers have the resources and support they need to protect Washington, DC. We call on Congress and the White House to join us in overturning harmful policies and building a stronger, safer future for our city."

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