



## PRESS RELEASE

### **DC Police Union Strongly Opposes Release of Officer Brian Gibson's Killer** Gibson Family's Decades-Long Support for MPD Officers Underscores Lasting Impact of 1997 Murder

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The DC Police Union, representing approximately 3,000 officers, detectives, and sergeants of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), today announced its unified opposition to any release of convicted cop killer Marthell Dean. Dean was convicted in 1998 of the cold-blooded murder of [Master Patrol Officer Brian T. Gibson](#). Dean, who executed Gibson in an unprovoked ambush while the officer sat in his marked cruiser on February 5, 1997, is seeking release under Councilmember Charles Allen’s Second Look Amendment Act (SLA). While Allen loves to release violent criminals back onto the streets, the Union firmly believes Dean must remain incarcerated for life.

Officer Brian T. Gibson, a highly decorated seven-year MPD veteran and Marine reservist who served in Operation Desert Storm, was just 27 years old when he was murdered. A devoted husband to Tracie and father to two young daughters, one only 13 months old at the time of his killing. He was known for his compassion. He connected with neighborhood kids on patrol, rescued stray animals, and earned Officer of the Month honors eight times in 1995 alone. His dream of protecting the District was cut short in a senseless, execution-style killing. Dean fired first into Gibson's shoulder, then three fatal shots to the head at close range, while he was stopped in his cruiser at a red light near Georgia and Missouri Avenues NW.

Dean was arrested and convicted of First-Degree Murder. He was sentenced to two consecutive terms of life in prison. He is now requesting to be released under a law passed by Councilmember Charles Allen, a man whose affinity for protecting criminals knows no bounds.

The Gibson family's grief has been compounded by permanent loss. There are no more family milestones and no fatherly guidance for his children. Yet over the past three decades, the Gibsons have transformed their pain into extraordinary service to MPD and its members. They have hosted cookouts, golf tournaments, served Thanksgiving dinners to hundreds of on-duty officers, and held special events to raise funds and provide moral support. Shirley Gibson, Brian's mother, founded the D.C. chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), served in national leadership roles, and for years opened her home to prepare and serve holiday meals, often featuring Brian's favorite dishes, to hundreds of officers and their families. This tireless

volunteerism and heartfelt care has built unbreakable bonds, boosted morale, and reminded officers they are part of a larger family. No one can put a price on such dedication.

Today, MPD officers face unprecedented challenges: chronic understaffing, mandatory overtime, burnout, rising assaults and attacks, and severe recruitment and retention crises. Morale is already at a breaking point. Releasing Brian's killer would deliver a devastating blow. It would retraumatize the Gibson family, erode trust in justice, and send a dangerous message that the premeditated murder of an officer carries no permanent consequence.

"The Gibson family's unwavering support has been a lifeline for our department," said Gregg Pemberton, President of the DC Police Union. "Brian Gibson died protecting our city. Justice demands Dean stays in prison. We stand with the Gibsons and urge the court to deny this motion and keep this murdering assassin behind bars."

The Union submitted an impact statement to the U.S. Attorney's Office ahead of the March 16, 2026 deadline and encourages community members to do the same.

