

United States Capitol Police

Labor Committee

1320 G Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

Telephone: 202-544-4813

www.uscp-fop.com



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Jody Hice

U.S. House of Representatives

409 CHOB

Washington, DC 20015

Dear Congressman Hice:

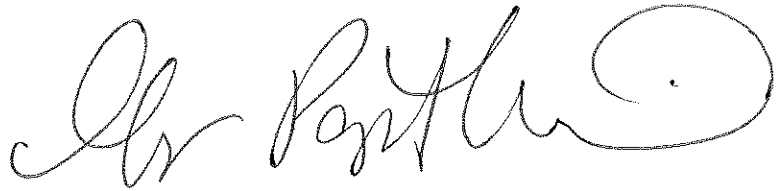
As the Chairman of the U.S Capitol Police Labor Committee, I am writing you today to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 3924, the U.S. Park Police Modernization Act.

Recruitment and retention of law enforcement personnel at the federal, state and local level is critical issue right now. In the case of the U.S. Capitol Police, we are over 230 officers below our authorized level and have had over 75 officers resign or retire from the department since January. We have also lost 4 of our brothers in blue as a result of the tragic events since the beginning of this year.

These issues of recruitment and retention however are not unique to the U.S. Capitol Police. I fully support your legislation to bring U.S. Park Police Pay step and grade increases more consistent with our department and the Uniformed Division of Secret Service. Although every department is unique, I firmly believe that reducing the number and time between pay grade steps will improve recruitment and retention at the U.S Park Police. Regarding the U.S. Capitol Police's pay scale it's been a goal of mine since 2009 to compress our pay scale so that step increases are done yearly and capped in year 20. This will go a long way to keep officers and increase morale.

Thanking you for your leadership on the issue and with kindest regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus Papathanasiou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Gus Papathanasiou

FOP/USCP Chairman

FOP/USCP Labor Committee