



Fraternal Order of Police United States Park Police Labor Committee

1320 "G" Street SE, Washington, DC 20003
Telephone: 202-991-2377 • Website: usppfop.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

CONTACT: [REDACTED]

Statement of Kenneth Spencer, Chairman, United States Park Police Fraternal Order of Police on the Introduction of the U.S. Park Police Modernization Act

"The United States Park Police Fraternal Order of Police enthusiastically endorses the U.S. Park Police Modernization Act. This important legislation provides a thoughtful and effective solution to a recruitment and retention crisis that has festered in our agency for decades and across multiple Administrations. The Act puts in place a service step system that finally matches those of our peer federal law enforcement agencies, including the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and the U.S. Capitol Police. Their service step system has been in place for decades, leaving the US Park Police at an insurmountable disadvantage in the recruitment and retention of good officers. For example, studies have determined that the US Park Police needs 680 officers across its three urban jurisdictions (Washington, DC, New York City, and San Francisco) to meet minimal staffing levels. Today, the agency has fewer than 520 officers and, until the introduction of today's bill, there was an expectation of further attrition in the weeks and months ahead. The public we serve, including the millions of Americans who visit our national treasures like the Washington Monument, the Statue of Liberty, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, reasonably expect a safe and secure environment and this bill will help the US Park Police meet that essential mission.

"It comes as no surprise to us that Representative Hice understands the critical mission of the US Park Police and the serious recruitment and retention challenges before us. He has served as a long-time champion of law enforcement and our officers are very grateful for his leadership on this pivotal issue. We urge all friends of law enforcement, from both political parties, to join him by cosponsoring this bill as soon as possible."

###