



Fraternal Order of Police United States Park Police Labor Committee

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A WARNING FROM THE US PARK POLICE FOP: NATIONAL PARKS IN SAN FRANCISCO ARE NOT SAFE FAMILIES AND TOURISTS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST SUMMER VISITS

The Chairman of the US Park Police Fraternal Order of Police (USPPFOP), Kenneth Spencer, said today that, due to an officer staffing crisis at the agency's San Francisco Field Office, families should avoid unnecessary travel to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Presidio.

"With the Memorial Day holiday weekend here, millions of American families are putting the final touches on their summer vacation plans. It saddens me to say that those plans should not include visits to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area or the Presidio because, simply put, they are not safe," said Spencer.

Spencer pointed out that the US Park Police, which has primary law enforcement jurisdiction throughout the parks, has only 11 patrol officers to secure the area on a 24/7 basis. "Experts have said that, at a minimum, we should have 83 officers assigned to the San Francisco Field Office to cover this massive area. As a result, the thousands of families and tourists who visit areas like Aquatic Park, Fort Mason, Fort Funston, and Ocean Beach are dangerously vulnerable almost all the time," added Spencer.

"Families should look east to Yosemite, or south to Monterey, or north to Point Reyes for a safe and fun getaway ... at least for this summer. The risk of danger, and not having law enforcement assistance available to respond, is just too great in San Francisco," said Spencer.

Spencer blamed the lack of officer recruitment on starting salaries. USPP officers start at \$67,769 per year. By comparison, San Francisco city officers have a starting salary of \$92,560. "Staffing levels at the US Park Police have reached crisis levels," Spencer concluded, "and we can only hope that Speaker Pelosi will help us get back on our feet before it's too late." Spencer added that a bipartisan bill (HR 3924) is pending in Congress that would largely restore officer staffing levels at the US Park Police.