



# Fraternal Order of Police United States Park Police Labor Committee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Statement of Kenneth Spencer, Chairman US Park Police Fraternal Order of Police Regarding Columbus Circle Protests

Kenneth Spencer, the Chairman of the United States Park Police Fraternal Order of Police (USPP FOP), issued the following statement in the wake of the violent protest activities outside Union Station over the past 30 hours:

*"Our officers on the ground did everything they could to protect life and property. In fact, despite having only 29 officers available to mitigate damage - 29! - with no additional help from the Department of the Interior, we processed several arrests for charges ranging from assault on a police officer to destruction of government property. That's why it's so disheartening to hear some Members of Congress and members of the media, many of whom describe themselves as "champions" of law enforcement, suggesting that officers gave protesters a "pass" or that insufficient arrests were made. Nothing could be further from the truth - anyone who truly cares to understand the problem would see that our officer staffing crisis is at the root of our agency's mission readiness. A small unit of 29 officers arrested 10 individuals while being assaulted by a mob of thousands. We simply did not have the staffing or resources to accomplish a mass arrest operation. The Interior Department and the National Park Service have stood in the way of congressional action on the US Park Police Modernization Act which would solve many of these issues for decades to come. If Congress wants a more effective law enforcement response to events like those that occurred yesterday, they need to pass the Modernization Act this year!"*