



Chairman Kevin Yoder

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FY 2018 BUDGET REQUEST

May 18, 2017 – 10:00 am
Opening Statement As Prepared

I would like to call this hearing to order. This morning we will hear testimony from the United States Capitol Police regarding their fiscal year 2018 budget request.

I would like to welcome Chief of Police Matthew Verderosa who is testifying before this subcommittee for the first time in his capacity as chief of police. Chief Verderosa has had an extensive career within the United States Capitol Police rising through the ranks and ultimately becoming chief last March. Also joining the chief today is assistant chief Steven Sund who joined the department in January after a distinguished 25 year career with the Metropolitan Police Department.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all the officers and civilians of the Capitol Police for their service. Their presence allows members and staff to safely conduct the people's work and ensures that visitors can safely enjoy their time on Capitol Hill.

Chief, your budget request for FY2018 is \$426.6 million. This is approximately 8% increase from the enacted level.

We understand the importance of the critical mission and role the Capitol Police plays in ensuring the safety of all of us. I also understand that as the mission of the Capitol Police increases so do the required resources to fulfil the mission. To that point, in less than a month the O'Neill Federal Office Building will be transferred to the Legislative Branch and the Capitol Police will be charged with securing the building. Additionally, the department is working towards enhancing garage security and adding pre-screening capabilities all while maintaining current operations. However, our job is to scrutinize this requested increase and make informed funding decisions. In a tight fiscal environment many competing priorities exist across the Legislative Branch that must be raked and stacked in a holistic approach which this subcommittee will do over the coming weeks.

I look forward to hearing your testimony and with that I yield the Ranking Member Ryan for any opening remarks he may have.