STATEMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL MICHAEL A. BOLTON UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Committee on House Administration United States House of Representatives February 17, 2022

Good afternoon, Madam Chair Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you, the Committee on House Administration, to discuss our Review of Events in regards to Capitol Police's Departmental Operation, Programs and Policies that were in affect during January 6, 2021.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Committee for holding this hearing and the important work that this Committee continues to do to make the Capitol Complex safe and secure. I would also like to take the time to extend and recognize the outstanding efforts and work done by my staff in the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Capitol Police. Through their collective efforts and skills, we have produced eight Flash Reports outlining areas of improvement for the Department resulting in 104 recommendations. Our last and final Flash Report is a summary of the status of the recommendations we have made and Security improvements that the Department has made since January 6, 2021. Although the Department has addressed some of our recommendations and have made security improvements throughout the Capitol Complex, much work still needs to be addressed in relation to Training, Intelligence, cultural change and Operational Planning.

We have issued our final flash report, outlining the status of OIG's recommendations. During my testimony before the Senate Rules Committee on December 7, 2021, I stated that the Department had closed 30 of my recommendations. Since that testimony, the Department has closed an additional 9 recommendations for a total of 39 recommendations closed. Since my last hearing before this Committee, we have issued three additional Flash Reports. Those reports included areas in the Department such as Command and Coordination Bureau, Hazardous Incident Response Division and Canine (K-9) Unit and finally Dignitary Protection Division and Human Capitol.

Our fifth flash report is designed to communicate deficiencies with the Department's Command and Coordination Bureau (CCB). Additionally, to gain a perspective on Department-wide command and control challenges on January 6, 2021, we contacted 86 USCP officers and completed interviews with 36 of them who agreed to be interviewed. We also reviewed 49 after action reports USCP officers and employees completed.

Based on interviews with USCP officers and review of after action reports, we identified Department-wide command and control deficiencies related to information sharing, chain of command directions, communication, preparedness, training, leadership development, emergency response procedures, and law enforcement coordination.

Our sixth flash report was designed to communicate deficiencies with the Department's Hazardous Incident Response Division (HIRD) and Canine Unit (K-9 or Unit). Deficiencies included a lack of adequate Department guidance for both HIRD and K-9.

The Department did not always comply with guidance related to K-9 operations or training and did not always ensure K-9 policies and procedures were up to date. A lack of K-9 related training or operational experience required for officials and formal guidance for emergency procedures, as well as inadequate hazardous device response guidance could have hampered the efficiency of the K-9 Unit on January 6, 2021.

Our seventh flash report is designed to communicate any deficiencies with the Department's Dignity Protection Division and Human Capitol. DPD contributed toward the Department's mission through proper planning and successfully evacuating individuals under its protection during the events of January 6, 2021. However, DPD incurred authorization issues with staging evacuation vehicles on January 6, 2021. Additionally, DPD's training program lacked a dedicated training staff, facilities issues, and weapon system training integration.

USCP could not provide documentation supporting that it implemented Department-wide leave restrictions or cancellations, or that it issued Department-wide messages for recalls to duty.

Our eighth and final flash report is a summary of the status of our 104 recommendations, any security improvement made by the Department since January 6, 2021. Although the Department has made several changes to include updating Policies and Procedures, additional Training for CDU units, and the hiring of a Subject Matter Expect in the planning and coordination of large events or high profile demonstrations, the Department still has more work to achieve the goal of making the Capitol Complex safe and secure. Out of the 200 security enhancements that the Department has provided to the OIG, only 61 of those items have supporting documentation to support that those enhancements have occurred. Some of the other Security enhancements the Department has instituted has been the additional Intelligence briefings provided to the rank and file, as well as to Department Leadership. The Department still lacks the overall Training infrastructure to meet the needs of the Department, the level of Intelligence gathering and expertise needed, and an overall cultural change needed to move the Department into a Protective Agency as opposed to a traditional Police Department.

In conclusion, the Department is comprised of extraordinary men and women who are dedicated to protecting our democracy, putting their own lives in harm's way in order for Congress to exercise their Constitutional duties in a safe and open manner. It is our duty to honor those officers who have given their lives but also ensuring the safety of all those working and visiting the Capitol Complex by making hard changes within the Department. Finally, I would like to thank not only this Committee, but also the Senate Rules Committee, and the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th attack. for their continuing support of my office and the work they have done in protecting Democracy so that events such as January 6, 2021, never happen again.

3

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be very happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.