



Fraternal Order of Police United States Park Police Labor Committee

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January 2, 2025

The Honorable Paul Gosar
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gosar,

Thank you for your letter of December 13th, inviting me to respond to a series of questions raised by Representative Anthony D'Esposito in the wake of the Subcommittee's December 10th hearing entitled "*Desecrating Old Glory: Investigating How the Pro-Hamas Protests Turned National Park Service Land into a Violent Disgrace.*" My responses to these questions are provided below.

Question #1: *Mr. Spencer, does the Park Police keep any record of groups or organizations that have gotten violent on Public Lands? And, does the National Park Service seek that information when dealing with these organizations?*

The U.S. Park Police (USPP) maintains an Intelligence and Counterterrorism Unit dedicated to monitoring various groups and gathering intelligence to assess and address potential civil unrest or violence. The USPP collaborates closely with the FBI, with personnel assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) to enhance monitoring and response capabilities. Additionally, the USPP works in partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to share information and ensure coordinated preparations for special events within or near its jurisdiction, whether those events are officially permitted or not. However, our efforts are significantly hindered by staffing challenges. Despite robust intelligence gathering and thorough preparation, the ongoing staffing crisis makes it increasingly difficult to effectively manage and mitigate volatile situations that arise within our jurisdiction.

Question #2: *Before July 24, could you describe the experience of the Park Police when interacting with the ANSWER Coalition?*

The ANSWER Coalition has a well-documented history of engaging in activities that contribute to civil unrest, property damage, assaults on law enforcement and civilians, and other unlawful behavior. They also frequently disregard the terms and conditions of the permits issued to them by the National Park Service.

Question #3: *In your opinion, how can the National Park Service develop a more collaborative approach with the Park Police for permitting, planning, and secure [sic] public gatherings in order to better prevent events like those on July 24?*

The Labor-Management Contract with our Union explicitly states:

"The Union shall be given the opportunity to be represented at any formal discussion between one or more representatives of the Employer and one or more members of the Unit or their representatives concerning any grievance or personnel policy or other general conditions of employment. Representatives of the Employer involved in such meetings shall notify the Union prior to the start of such meetings and as soon as practical after the time, date, and place of such meeting is known. The Union representative shall be recognized to offer the Union's view, if any, on the matter being discussed at an appropriate time prior to the conclusion of the meeting."

Despite this clear obligation, the National Park Service has consistently failed to uphold this requirement, refusing to allow the USPPFOP to attend meetings regarding special events. This failure is deeply troubling, especially given that our members willingly put themselves in harm's way to safeguard First Amendment rights at every event held on public lands in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and New York City. It is imperative that both our Union and the United States Park Police are given a rightful place at the table to ensure our voices are heard and our members are adequately represented in these critical discussions.

Thank you again for providing me an opportunity to respond to these important questions.

Sincerely,

 Recoverable Signature

X Kenneth Spencer

Kenneth Spencer
Chairman

Signed by: f69694a9-4426-4002-a532-361e8edb9b7c