



***“The Ongoing Investigation of the Butler,  
Pennsylvania Security Failure: The Secret  
Service’s Reliance on State and Local Law  
Enforcement”***

**Statement of**

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**Presented to the**

**TASK FORCE ON THE**

**ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF**

**DONALD J. TRUMP**

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**September 26, 2024**

## **Introduction**

Chairman Kelly, Ranking Member Crow, and members of the House Task Force, I am Lieutenant John D. Herold of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). I proudly entered the State Police Academy in 2005 and have been a supervisor since 2013.

I was the Officer in Charge of PSP's personnel at the Butler Farm Show site for the July 13th rally for former President Donald J. Trump. The Officer in Charge has overall supervisory responsibility for all PSP assets assigned to the detail and I performed those duties including visiting each PSP post to ensure the assignments were clear and they had adequate resources. I also took part in planning meetings for the rally for former President Trump with the United States Secret Service (USSS) and local law enforcement as well as preparing PSP's operations plan for the Butler Farm Show site. I appreciate the opportunity to join you today to discuss the event as it pertains to the PSP.

## **Department Composition**

The PSP is a full-service police department composed of 4,562 sworn members and 1,616 civilian employees providing various law enforcement services to communities and our local, county, regional, state, and federal partners.

The PSP operates independently from our local partners and works cooperatively with full and part-time local law enforcement agencies, but we do not have administrative or operational oversight over local law enforcement agencies or county sheriff's offices. We have always and will continue to work with our law enforcement partners at the local and federal level to protect public safety.

## **United State Secret Service Request for Resources**

The United States Secret Service (USSS) is the lead agency at events involving its protectees and the PSP routinely provides resources and personnel to assist the

USSS. As a matter of protocol, the USSS advises the PSP that an event is anticipated followed by a joint meeting and site visit.

On Friday, July 5th, the USSS notified PSP that a rally for former President Trump would take place in Butler. On Monday, July 8th I and other commanders from PSP attended an initial planning meeting with various law enforcement agencies. I visited the site multiple times and completed the PSP Operations Plan leading up to July 13th. The PSP provided all resources requested by the USSS. The USSS did not ask me as the Officer in Charge of PSP for assets or to post a car or trooper at AGR International nor am I aware of USSS making that request to any other PSP officials.

### **Areas of Responsibility**

Thirty members of the PSP were assigned to various roles to support the USSS. These members provided escorts for the motorcade route, staffed posts within the secured perimeter, performed roving patrols and staffed the USSS command post. PSP was not responsible for securing the building or property at AGR International.

### **Communications**

The USSS established and managed the primary command post for communications in the office of the Butler Farm Show. A PSP Sergeant under my supervision was stationed in the USSS command post to relay any communications made by PSP personnel to our local and federal partners.

### **Conclusion**

I thank you for the opportunity to provide information about the actions of the PSP in planning, staffing and responding to the tragic events at the July 13th rally and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.