

**Testimony of
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**For the U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, Committee on Appropriations**

March 3, 2021

Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Herrera-Beutler, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the United States Capitol Police (USCP) budget request for Fiscal Year 2022. The Department greatly appreciates the Subcommittee's continued support of the women and men of the Department as well as Congress' generosity in providing the resources needed to support our crucial mission to protect the Congress and the U.S. Capitol.

Joining me today is the Department's Executive Team – Assistant Chief Chad Thomas, Acting Assistant Chief Sean Gallagher, Chief Administrative Officer Richard Braddock, and General Counsel Thomas DiBiase – as well as members of the USCP Executive Management Team.

Throughout its history, the USCP has held a unique role in policing. We are the only law enforcement agency responsible for protecting the Congress in DC and abroad and the U.S. Capitol Complex. We detect, investigate, and prevent threats made against Members of Congress and the U.S. Capitol. We provide a steady, watchful presence throughout the Capitol Complex, and we are responsible for protecting elected officials to ensure the continuity of government.

The type of policing that we engage in is highly specialized to focus on the unique requirements of protecting our nation's legislative process as well as ensure that citizens may participate in lawful First Amendment activities on the Capitol Grounds. All the while, the Department is expected to maintain the security of an open campus so that visitors may witness representative democracy in action.

The USCP is a full-service agency. We conduct investigations with our law enforcement partners both in Washington, D.C. and across the country, to include working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Park Police, Metropolitan Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and many others.

The Department's personnel are resilient, highly trained in specialized fields, and deeply committed to our critical mission to protect and secure the U.S. Capitol and the Congress. Under my leadership, I intend to focus on four key elements to further strengthen and support the USCP workforce: Member protection; health and wellness programs; training; and obtaining the equipment and facilities to meet the needs of the workforce of the future.

In the Department's efforts to address new and emerging threats, we work closely with the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms to augment and strengthen off-campus security and Member protection. We routinely collaborate to assess Members' district and state office security, and we provide recommendations on ways to improve and enhance security measures and practices inside and outside of the National Capital Region (NCR). We also work closely with the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to address the physical security of the Capitol Complex, in addition to facility and support needs for the USCP workforce.

In the first two months of 2021, there has been a 93.54 percent increase in threats to Members compared to the same period in 2020. And from 2017 to 2020, there has been a 118.66 percent increase in total threats and directions of interests, with the overwhelming majority of suspects residing outside of the NCR.

Therefore, a significant focus of the Department in FY 2022 is centered on Member security outside of the NCR. The direct impact to the Department not only includes our current protective services' increased posture around the country, but includes increasing the resources available for our Protective and Intelligence Operations through the expansion of the USCP's protective, intelligence and investigatory capabilities both on the Capitol Complex and throughout the United States. While we have complemented our increased posture with the leveraging of federal, state and local law enforcement partnerships with the collective goal of protecting the

Congress away from the Capitol Grounds, the number of agents required to provide an appropriate level of analysis, protection and enforcement necessitates a significant increase in personnel based on the threats trends year-over-year.

On the Capitol Complex, the level of existential threats to the U.S. Capitol and Grounds are increasing as well. This was abundantly clear on January 6, 2021, when insurrectionists attempted to prevent the Congress from certifying the 2020 Electoral College results by storming the U.S. Capitol. Due to the heroic actions of USCP officers, with the assistance of the Metropolitan Police Department, the National Guard, and many other of our law enforcement partners, the violent rioters were prevented from accomplishing their goal.

The USCP is steadfast in ensuring that an incident of this nature will never occur again, especially with the realization that the possibility of a similar incident occurring in the current environment is a very real and present danger. The events of January 6, 2021, demonstrate that the USCP must continue to quickly assess, adjust, and utilize the tactics and methods necessary to successfully carry out our mission in any scenario. This will require a significant investment in the necessary training, tools, and information gathering resources needed to meet the dynamic and ever-changing security challenges, including the rising threat of domestic terrorism. Most importantly, it will require the Department having a dedicated standby ready force of two platoons (80 officers) at all times, thereby removing the Department's full reliance on partner agencies for mission support when faced with an immediate threat event.

In the wake of the insurrection attempt, the Department has invested additional resources, with the generous support of the Congress, to ensure that our officers have the support services they need as they continue to process what occurred. This has included 24/7 access to onsite trauma informed professional counselors through the collaborative partnership with the House Office of Employee Assistance (OEA), the enhanced services of OEA, peer counseling sessions with law enforcement officers from neighboring law enforcement agencies, and counseling services for officers' family members. The Department also has provided over 20,000 nights in hotel room stays for its personnel, has served nearly 70,000 daily hot meals over the past six weeks, and

reopened the USCP gyms 24/7 taking into account all safety protocols to ensure COVID-19 transmission is neutralized.

I am committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our workforce, both mentally and physically, and it is my intent to ensure the Department will continue to identify new resources that may be of assistance to both our sworn and civilian employees so that they may be at their very best. To this end, on February 4, 2021, I was pleased to announce to our workforce that, thanks to the efforts of Congressional leaders and the Administration, enough doses of the COVID-19 vaccines were secured to vaccinate all USCP personnel who want to be vaccinated. Working closely with the Office of Attending Physician, they were able to begin administering the doses to our employees quickly and safely. To date, nearly 60 percent of the Department has received vaccines. By the end of March 2021, all USCP employees wanting the COVID vaccine are expected to have received their second dose of the vaccine.

The USCP's employees are our greatest assets. Accordingly, the Department's FY 2022 budget request is an investment in our employees, and focuses on meeting mandatory salary requirements, overtime for critical training, and securing additional capabilities within the USCP's General Expenses to increase the resources available to our personnel.

The FY 2022 USCP budget request includes the budgetary authority and resources to fund 2,112 sworn and 453 civilians. This includes funding for 212 new sworn officers for mission critical requirements, such as a standby quick response force, threat assessment agents, and dignitary protection agents.

The request for the Salaries appropriation is \$481.75 Million which is an increase of \$57.35 Million over the FY 2021 enacted levels. The main drivers of the cost increases are increases in FY 2020 and FY 2021 benefit rates (FERS, FEHB) not reflected in the FY 2021 enacted levels, as well as overtime for core mission, cost-of-living adjustments, and within grade increases. The USCP is also requesting \$2.5 Million for its student loan repayment program, as this program is a critical component of employee retention and an additional incentive for recruiting the additional personnel needed to carry out the Department's evolving mission.

Countering evolving domestic and international threats requires ensuring constantly sharing intelligence information throughout the entire Department from analysts to officials to the officers on post, as well as gathering intelligence and working with partner law enforcement agencies. In response to one of the lessons learned on January 6th, the Department has revised its internal communications policies and processes, and has included emerging technologies and tools in this budget request to assist with effecting the ideal communications state for the Department to meet its mission. Further, the events of that day highlighted critical areas that require new or modified training throughout the Operational elements of the Department in order to maintain the highest levels of readiness. It is my intent to begin such trainings and exercises as soon as practicable, and our FY 2022 budget request highlights all such training as a priority.

Additionally, as a result of January 6th, the Operational elements of the Department have identified the need for new officer safety equipment based on the evolving threats and physical security requirements for the Capitol Complex. In the weeks and months ahead, I will be working with the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to jointly produce recommendations for the physical hardening of the Capitol Complex as well as identify USCP facility needs to ensure appropriate space is obtained by the AOC for the growing USCP workforce as well as the storage space for the new equipment needed to appropriately execute our mission.

As a result of the aforementioned priorities, the FY 2022 General Expenses portion of this budget request was developed with an emphasis on providing specialized training for our employees as well as investing in the tools and technologies we need to maintain the highest level of readiness. This includes items such as protective travel; mandatory training; hiring, outfitting, and training new sworn personnel; upgrading and maintaining security equipment; updating and maintaining the motor vehicle fleet; providing uniforms, weapons, and ammunition for all sworn personnel; access to the employee assistance program; and other non-personnel needs.

The General Expenses request is \$137.47 Million, which is an increase of \$49.96 Million. For Salaries and General Expenses together, the total budget request for the FY 2022 annual budget appropriation is \$619.22 Million, which is an increase of 20.96% over FY 2021 enacted levels.

I want to again reiterate that our officers who are on the job 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, are our greatest assets in helping to prevent and respond to threats. To ensure that the USCP is always at the ready to keep the Capitol Complex safe and secure, it is important that we make these crucial investments at this time. While our FY 2022 budget request was reformulated in the aftermath of the January 6th events, it was developed as a result of a deep analysis within the Operational elements of the Department for what is necessary to meet the mission. I believe that all of the new operational requirements, and necessary support components to support Operations, requested in this budget will do just that – allow us to continue to meet our mission now and into the future.

Prior to January 6th, the Department had prepared an FY 2022 budget justification that represented a \$36M increase over the FY 2021 enacted level. The events of January 6th caused the Department to reevaluate its budget justification, specifically around the emergency needs to meet the emerging threats and risk. The revised FY 2022 budget justification representing a \$107M increase includes many of these emergency needs that are reoccurring. While long-term funding for these needs will be necessary in our base funding going forward, the Department could certainly benefit if the funds could be provided sooner through other means.

And lastly, the USCP has a professional working relationship with the Capitol Police Board, its oversight Committees, the USCP Inspector General and the USCP labor unions to review options for efficiencies where possible. It is my intention to not only continue engagement, but to improve these relationships so that together the Department becomes holistically stronger. In the coming months, it is anticipated that there will likely be a significant number of formal recommendations that result in the need for substantial additional human and budgetary resources based on the January 6, 2021 review by the USCP Inspector General, third-party assessments being conducted, and other potential Congressional reviews. The Department is committed to working with the Subcommittee to seek any such resources to address these

potential recommendations via future budget requests, amendments to the current budget justification, or other vehicles as appropriate.

We realize that these requests for funding, as well as those resulting from the other reviews and recommendations, will present challenges to the Congress as it considers the appropriate funding levels for the Legislative Branch. The Department is prepared to work closely with the Subcommittee to provide a clear understanding of the Department's requirements and to prioritize these items as necessary.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to discuss the United States Capitol Police's FY 2022 budget request and our priorities for this coming year. We will continue to work closely with you and the Subcommittee to ensure that we meet the needs of our officers and the Department as well as the expectations of this Committee and the Congress.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have at this time.