

**Formal Statement of J. Thomas Manger**  
**Chief of Police**  
**United States Capitol Police**  
**For the United States House of Representatives**  
**Committee on House Administration**  
**March 21, 2024**

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the invitation to testify regarding safety on Capitol Hill and the enforcement efforts of the United States Capitol Police within our jurisdiction, the Department's cooperation with our law enforcement partners and our work in keeping the Capitol Complex and surrounding neighborhoods safe and secure. The Department greatly appreciates the Committee's continued support of the women and men of the United States Capitol Police, who courageously carry out their duties of protecting the Members of Congress, staff, visitors, the Capitol Complex, and the legislative process each and every day. Congress' support has been invaluable as we continue our work in addressing the law enforcement demands within our jurisdiction and the dramatic workload increases in an ever expanding, volatile threat environment throughout the country.

On Thursday, February 29, 2024, a call went out that a Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Housing Authority officer had been shot in the vicinity of 4<sup>th</sup> and M Streets, S.E. MPD and United States Capitol Police units responded. The assailant ran into a parking garage of a senior citizen residential building, a barricade situation occurred and a perimeter was established. A USCP officer assisted with emergency medical treatment and along with MPD accompanied the wounded officer to the hospital. USCP Containment Emergency Response Team (CERT) responded to the scene to assist and USCP personnel were in the incident command post. Ultimately, the individual surrendered and the incident was resolved without further injury. This is just a recent example of the almost daily interaction that the Department has with our law enforcement partners in the National Capitol Region. It is a mutually beneficial relationship

allowing the Department to fulfill its mission of securing the Capitol and the surrounding neighborhoods in order to keep Members, their families, staff and visitors safe.

As you know, the United States Capitol Police is unique among federal law enforcement agencies. We patrol a campus that is completely open. The public has a constitutional right to visit, protest, and petition their Representatives on Capitol Grounds. Our officers and civilians work 24/7 to keep you, your staff and visitors safe, whether here on Capitol Hill, or when you travel to your home districts. Our mission is vast and our responsibilities have expanded immensely over the years. The threat picture has morphed from securing our buildings and dealing with traditional criminal activity to the threat of a 9/11 scenario, to the lone offender and now to an unprecedented increase in threats to Members and their families.

However, at its core, the United States Capitol Police is a traditional police department similar to the police agencies in your districts. The Department has patrol officers who enforce traffic laws and the Capitol Police Board's traffic regulations, criminal investigators, crime scene technicians, officers that handle prisoner processing, motor cycle units, a top flight bomb squad and K-9 units among others. The Department deals with the enforcement of the law as it applies on Capitol Grounds and our extended jurisdiction zone in order to protect the Campus and the Members and staff who work, reside and travel through the neighboring communities.

There are other examples of USCP officers keeping the streets around the Capitol safe for those who work and visit the Capitol. In January of last year, the Department chased two individuals who were spotted on E Street, NW in a BMW believed to be tied to multiple carjackings. The individuals were considered armed and dangerous. Our officers attempted to make a traffic stop and the individuals sped away, ultimately crashing into a USCP vehicle on the 300 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SE. After the individuals fled the scene on foot, our officers

ultimately found them hiding in a restaurant freezer and made the arrest. A gun and a high-capacity magazine were recovered.

That same month, Bicycle Response Officers spotted an individual wanted for questioning by the United States Secret Service. A search of the suspect found multiple knives and a chain saw blade. A subsequent search of the suspect's vehicle by the Secret Service found fake police equipment leading to charges that the individual was impersonating a Law Enforcement Officer.

Among other law enforcement activities, USCP officers have confiscated an M-4 style "Ghost Gun" near the Senate Parks; stopped an assault rifle from getting to Capitol Hill; arrested an individual with a high-capacity magazine; pursued a stolen vehicle reportedly used in an armed robbery, made an arrest of an individual carrying a machete on Capitol Grounds and arrested an individual carrying Molotov Cocktails just off of Capitol Grounds. Just last week, officers at the Capitol Visitors Center prevented a man with a hammer in his backpack from entering into the Capitol.

Over the course of the last two years, we have had a Member attacked in their apartment building; a Member and a staff member car jacked; and a staff member assaulted after the Congressional Baseball Game as examples. In many of these cases, the Department worked in conjunction with our local law enforcement partners, the Metropolitan Police Department, the United States Park Police, the United States Secret Service and numerous local law enforcement agencies throughout the country investigating these matters. Investigating this activity requires law enforcement cooperation.

In addition, the USCP relies on mutual aid from local law enforcement agencies to supplement our civil disturbance unit and to act as a force multiplier for larger scale events at the

Capitol, such as the State of the Union address or handling protest activity to ensure individuals can exercise their First Amendment Rights safely but also to protect the Capitol and its occupants in the event that the First Amendment Activity morphs into a civil disturbance. This is made possible by the relationships that the Department has throughout the Region, but also as a result of our ability to reimburse agencies who assist the Department in its protective mission. The ability to reimburse these agencies is critical to the success of the Department, and I would like to thank Congress for providing us with the necessary funding.

Criminal activity has also impacted Members, family and staff away from the Capitol. We have had a Member attacked on the campaign trail, the husband of the former House Speaker was critically wounded in a politically-motivated attack, and a Member's district staff attacked by a baseball bat wielding intruder.

The Department recognizes that new and evolving challenges will continue to emerge, rendering it imperative that the Department be positioned, equipped, and resourced to meet and defeat threats to Members of Congress outside of the Capitol Complex. Strategic planning, forward thinking, proactive versus reactive policing is the new operational model that is best suited to confront the operational challenges facing the Department today and in the future. The Department's traditional model of law enforcement no longer applies to the current context. The old approach of Member protection has been replaced by the need to protect a Member's environment, as well as a Member's family. This requires the support of law enforcement agencies nationwide and we thank Congress with providing us with the funding to do so.

As the threat landscape changes, the Department is adapting to this changing threat landscape. Member expectations with regard to their safety, as well as the safety and security of their family, has also changed. Keeping you and your families safe is my paramount objective.

Working with the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, the Department provides law enforcement protection from the time that you leave the Capitol Complex to return to your districts until you return back to Washington. Among the services that the USCP can provide are providing escorts at the DC area airports, conducting law enforcement coordinations for your events in the District where we will review open source material regarding your event and work with local law enforcement to provide the necessary level of coverage to keep Members, staff and constituents safe. We can also monitor a Member's threat profile and work with local law enforcement to provide law enforcement presence as necessary for the Member and their family and can work with the Sergeant at Arms on a Member's residential security. I encourage all Members to take advantage of these services.

Recently we began the construction of a protective intelligence operations center (PIOC) to create a "command center" to serve as the command center for our Protective Services Bureau by consolidating all of the above, existing PSB Member protection functions. Functions of the PIOC will include case intake of threats, Intelligence operations, and Event Security/LE Coordination, air operations monitoring, detail tracking, residential security monitoring for protectees, and intelligence analysis. This will be a critical law enforcement tool in keeping you safe.

The Department thanks the Committee for its support and greatly appreciate our continued partnership with the Congress. We welcome any questions or comments.