



## PRESS RELEASE

### DC Police Union Statement on 100<sup>th</sup> Homicide in 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On June 24, Washington, D.C. suffered the 100<sup>th</sup> homicide in 2022. This is the earliest date in any year that the city has reached 100 homicides since 2003.

In 2021, the 100<sup>th</sup> homicide was recorded on July 10. We are now reaching this marker in June. Over the past 10 years, the average date that we have reached this grim marker is October 25.

Crime data on the department's website shows that homicides in 2022 have increased 16% this year, even over last year's 14% increase. Homicides in Ward 1 are up 166% this year. Robberies citywide are up 32%. Just this year alone there have been nearly 200 carjackings in DC.

"This increase in crime is due to the DC Council's implementation of misguided 'police reform' legislation," said Gregg Pemberton, Chairman of the DC Police Union. "The Council's actions have had a chilling effect on professional and responsible policing. Other major cities that have passed similar legislation have also experienced the mass departure of police personnel and, as a result, surges in crime. While the Council does its business inside a building protected by armed security, police officers in the real world are unable to do the impactful and necessary tasks needed to protect the public and apprehend violent criminals."

In June 2020, numerous DC Council members began demonizing police officers and, at the same time, enacted misguided legislation under the guise of "police reform." These bills have had the unintended consequences of causing officers to leave MPD at an alarming rate, increasing crime in our most vulnerable communities, and negatively impacting police service.

Since the passage of these bills, **the MPD has lost over 500 police officers** to either retirement or resignation. What is most alarming is that most of those who have left have resigned. This means more than half of these members have just turned in their badge and walked away. Today, the total strength of the police department is approximately 3,400 sworn officers, the lowest number in decades.

Most of the officers who left cited the Council's treatment of law enforcement, which not only makes their jobs harder, but also endangers them and their families. Our union members do not feel like they have the support of elected leadership and believe they have been wrongfully vilified by the Council.

District residents and business owners appreciate police and understand their importance in the community.

"There are many things on which we agree. We all want to stop violence, we all want to get guns out of the hands of criminals, and we all want to improve the quality of service MPD provides to our communities," said Pemberton. "We *must* find a way to work together to improve public safety. Residents are demanding action. Our message to the DC Council is clear: the ramifications of 'police reform' experiments are now evident. Let's work together to update legislation and build a better MPD."

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