



## PRESS RELEASE

### DC Police Union Statement on Dismissal of Charges by USAO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

On November 1, 2022, The United States Attorney's Office (USAO) announced that it would be dismissing 'dozens' of criminal cases that involved officers of the Seventh District Crime Suppression Team (CST). The reason provided by the USAO is that they learned that "the officers were under investigation for seizing guns without making arrests."

What the USAO fails to mention is that prosecutors have reviewed all body-worn camera footage in these cases and elected to bring charges. AUSAs routinely review all BWC footage when the cases come in to the office, and again when the cases are assigned to specific prosecutors. Apparently, no issues were discovered by any attorney as evidenced by the fact that they brought charges against these defendants.

Chairman Pemberton stated, "The fact that the USAO is dismissing cases against dozens of defendants is an affront to the responsible and positive work these officers have engaged in. This will undoubtedly cause more criminals to be released into the community and probably result in more violence. This decision is more likely a result of the USAO's lack of desire to prosecute criminals than it is a reflection of any allegations against these officers."

This situation is reminiscent of prior events where the Chief accused an officer of excessive force when he was arresting an armed gunman. The USAO refused to bring charges against the defendant, even though no charges were sustained against the officer. That same defendant was later arrested with another firearm in the very same area.

The allegations against these officers are still unclear and no charges of misconduct have ever been sustained against any of these members. The Union continues to assert that these officers were properly following policy and directives issued by command staff and we are confident that all of these officers will be exonerated.

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