



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2025

Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

## **DC Police Union Responds to Mayor’s Order 2025-053: Budget Cuts Threaten Public Safety**

**Washington, DC – April 15, 2025** – The DC Police Union, representing the dedicated officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), expresses profound concern over Mayor’s Order 2025-053, which imposes severe budgetary restrictions on District agencies, including MPD. These measures, driven by a \$1.1 billion cut to the District’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget, jeopardize public safety and hinder our officers’ ability to protect and serve our communities effectively.

The order’s freeze on hiring new employees, overtime, and critical expenditures directly undermines MPD’s operational capacity. Our department is already stretched thin, and these restrictions threaten to exacerbate staffing shortages, limit response times, and reduce proactive policing efforts. Overtime is essential for maintaining adequate coverage during emergencies, special events, and high-crime periods, while hiring is critical to replacing retiring officers and addressing attrition. Without sufficient resources, our ability to ensure the safety of District residents and visitors is at serious risk.

Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, *“We are encouraging Chief Smith to move to secure exemptions for overtime and hiring to mitigate these impacts. We urge the City Administrator to grant waivers to protect public safety, as permitted under the order. The Union stands ready to collaborate with the Chief, the Mayor’s Office, and other stakeholders to advocate for solutions that prioritize the well-being of our communities.”*

**The DC Police Union calls on Congress, particularly the House of Representatives, to act swiftly to restore the District’s full Fiscal Year 2025 budget.** The failure to correct this unprecedented cut—imposed despite prior approvals of our locally funded budget—is unacceptable and places an unfair burden on District residents and workers. We echo the Mayor’s call for urgent action and implore federal leaders to support our city.

Our officers remain committed to serving Washington, DC, but we cannot do so effectively without adequate resources. The DC Police Union will continue to fight for the tools and support our members need to keep our city safe.

###