



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

## **DC Police Union Statement on Three Officers Shot in NE**

Washington, D.C. – The DC Police Union is deeply saddened to confirm that three of our brave officers were shot while responding to a burglary in progress earlier today. These officers, who put their lives on the line daily to protect our community, are currently receiving medical care. We ask everyone to join us in praying for a quick recovery for these members.

DC Police Union Chairman Gregg Pemberton stated, *“We can confirm that all three officers have suffered non-life-threatening injuries and will likely be released within the next 24 hours. We want to extend our gratitude to the doctors and nurses for their incredible care.”* This tragic incident underscores the mounting challenges faced by the Metropolitan Police Department. Chronic staffing shortages, excessive overtime demands, and the impending strain of the upcoming presidential inauguration have placed an overwhelming burden on our officers. These factors jeopardize not only the safety of our officers but also the safety of the residents we are sworn to protect.

The Metropolitan Police Department is operating at dangerously low staffing levels. Over the past few years, retirements and resignations have far outpaced new recruitments, leaving our department critically understaffed. The MPD is currently staffed at less than 3,200 sworn members, the lowest in 50 years.

To compensate for staffing shortages, officers are consistently working excessive overtime. Last year, members worked nearly 2 million hours of overtime – four times the average. This not only leads to physical and mental exhaustion but also reduces the effectiveness of our force.

**Today's incident serves as a stark reminder of the risks associated with an overburdened force. It is of the utmost importance for the safety of the District that city leaders prioritize staffing levels and retention of officers.**

Our officers remain committed to protecting the residents of Washington, D.C., despite the immense challenges they face. We honor their courage and dedication and will continue to advocate for the resources and support they deserve.

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