

**Testimony of J. Thomas Manger,  
Chief, U.S. Capitol Police**

**before the**

**Committee On Rules and Administration**

**of the**

**United States Senate**

**December 19, 2022**

**HEARING:**

***Oversight of the U.S. Capitol Police***

Chairwoman Klobuchar, Ranking Member Blunt, and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide an overview of the significant improvements we have made in the past year, and the many initiatives currently underway to strengthen the Department, increase the security of Members of Congress both here and in their home states, and enhance the security of the Capitol Complex. Having been in this position for more than a year, I know we can now move from fixing the immediate problems identified on January 6 and its aftermath, to better positioning the Department for the future. Our progress has not always been smooth, but we have made great strides. From implementing the majority of the recommendations issued to the Department after January 6, to undertaking foundational changes in the Department's operational planning, intelligence sharing, staffing levels, and equipment issues, the Department is moving in the right direction. I recognize, however, that there is still more work to be done.

The United States Capitol Police remains an agency with unique and important law enforcement, security, investigative, protective, and public order responsibilities. Our mission is to protect the Legislative Branch of Government, both here on Capitol Hill and across the country. Our mission is highly complex, and to successfully carry it out, we need to be resilient and agile. We need to have the flexibility to pivot from our public order responsibilities, to our investigative responsibilities, to our protection responsibilities, seamlessly. That is my primary objective going forward. And I believe that if you look at the events of the past year, we have largely succeeded. The Department launched new training, using the latest virtual reality technology, and also conducted active shooter drills within the Capitol and Congressional office buildings. The Department also successfully protected civil liberties and the Capitol Complex during the abortion rights protests, the trucker's convoy demonstration, and the State of the Union. The Department also increased recruit and contract staffing, and updated critical equipment. These are just a few of the many improvements that have been implemented.

But I have been consistent about the fact that we still have a lot more work to do. Among our most significant challenges is the ever-changing threat landscape. The numbers of threats and directions of interests towards Members of Congress have increased approximately 400% in the past 6 years. That is a sobering number. Identifying and mitigating those threats requires resources--additional personnel, security assessments, and other security enhancements for Members, their families, their offices, and their homes.

All of our projects and initiatives, however, cannot get off the ground without the support of our oversight committees. Your Committee has provided constructive input and oversight, and at the same time has been a staunch supporter of the Department. I cannot overstate my appreciation for that support. Our increasing mission, threat landscape, and future challenges—both known and unknown—will require additional resources. This is a reality. I say this, fully acknowledging all the support that we have received so far. But if we are to build, enhance, and protect to the scale of the entire Congress, we

cannot do it based on our current resources. Simply stated, if we are to keep pace with the workload demands, as well as Member expectations, I am obligated to ensure that you hear what I believe we need to keep this campus and its Members safe.

With this introduction and background, I want to focus on three general areas:

1. The Department's accomplishments in the past year, including those related to January 6;
2. The Department's current projects and initiatives; and
3. The Department's vision for the future.

## **I. Post-January 6 Accomplishments**

Following the events of January 6, the Department was the focus of several oversight and investigative reviews, including from the USCP Inspector General (OIG), your Committee, and others. Of the 103 recommendations issued by the OIG in its flash reports, over 75% have been completed. Those that remain are on a glide path to completion.

We have made significant inroads in other areas that strengthen the Department's ability to carry out its protective and law enforcement function—some of these initiatives were developed before January 6. I am particularly proud of the health, wellness, and resiliency infrastructure we have set up for our officers. Here is a snapshot of some of the other post-January 6 priority accomplishments. We have:

- Appointed a new Intelligence Director;
- Enhanced member protection;
- Increased training;
- Deployed new protective gear for the Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU);
- Solidified critical incident response planning; and
- Improved communication, both in terms of intelligence sharing and collaboration, internally and externally, to include daily briefings for the sworn workforce.

## **II. Current Projects and Initiatives**

As I noted at the outset, my first priority when I arrived at the Capitol Police was fixing the systemic deficiencies that lay at the root of its operational and intelligence capabilities. The Department identified, prioritized, and remediated the most significant gaps-- including those identified by this Committee--such as developing Department-wide operational plans for special events; formalizing, training, and equipping the CDU; and improving the Department's intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities. Although improvements to the Department's lead intelligence component—the Intelligence and Interagency Coordination Division —began before January 6, the attack on the Capitol accelerated the Department's timeline. These front burner priorities have been largely remediated.

While certain items remain on the Department's post-January 6 "To Do" list, we are working on additional initiatives to strengthen the Department and meet the increasingly complex challenges we continue to face. To meet these challenges, our current efforts are focused

primarily on certain key areas--threat assessment and mitigation, fully reopening the Capitol, and staffing. I will provide an overview of each.

a. *Threat Assessment and Mitigation*

I cannot overstate the scope, breadth, and intensity of the nation's current threat climate. Hate, intolerance, and violence are part of this disturbing trend. You cannot open a newspaper or turn on the television without hearing about a mass shooting or other heinous act of violence. This past year the Department saw more than 9,000 threats against Members of Congress. The attacks on Rep. Lee Zeldin and Paul Pelosi, as well as the threats directed towards other Members of Congress, are a sad reminder of the extent to which our social fabric has frayed.

Not surprisingly then, the bulk of the Department's current efforts are directed to threat assessment and mitigation. These efforts include:

- An increase in the number of Dignitary Protection Agents, as well as the training and assignment of a reserve team to supplement Dignitary Protection advance teams, and
- Enhanced security protections for Members and their families. To that end, the Department has presented a list of

security recommendations and options to the Capitol Police Board and the relevant appropriations committees of both chambers. These recommendations span the gamut of enhanced security protections, and include the installation of state of the art residential security systems for Congressional leadership, comprehensive resident security systems for every Member of Congress, the creation of a protective operations—or fusion—center, expansion of memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies nationwide, as well as other important recommendations designed to keep all of our protectees safe.

*b. Full Reopening*

Thanks to our efforts to increase staffing, I am confident that we are on track to meet our goal of fully reopening the Capitol with an emphasis on reopening the public facing entrances around the Capitol Complex. As I already mentioned, we have added a significant number of new recruits to our roster, men and women who play an invaluable part in the reopening effort.

*c. Staffing*

I do not have to tell you how critical it is for the Department to be adequately staffed. I know you have heard me talk about it time and again. We cannot strengthen protective details or fully reopen the Capitol without more personnel. As I have stated before, my goal is to increase our sworn police force to more than 2,000 officers and our civilian staff to over 450 by the end of fiscal year 2023. As of December 5, 2022 we have 1966 sworn officers and 378 civilian employees. Since January 6, 2021, we have hired over 350 new recruits, 175 of which have graduated from the academy and are now covering posts throughout the Capitol Grounds. Our hiring and recruitment efforts also include over 56 contract Capitol security officers, the launch of a lateral hiring program, the payment of retention bonuses, and specialty assignment pay for positions that have been hard to fill due to qualification and proficiency requirements. These resource enhancements should enable the Department to meet its target of a full reopening.

### **III. Vision for the Future**

When I came onboard, I made it clear that I wanted to focus efforts on rebuilding and strengthening the Department to maximize its full potential. I am continually impressed by the caliber and commitment of the men and women who fill our ranks. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the support and dedication of one of the Department's finest, Assistant Chief Yogananda Pittman, who will soon be leaving the Department. I cannot emphasize enough the value of her experience, insight, intelligence, and spirit. I could not have done my job without her. We all owe her a big debt of gratitude.

In fact, in collaboration with Assistant Chief Sean Gallagher and my senior leadership team, we have charted a path to the future that focuses on maximizing organizational efficiencies, modernizing technology, increasing member protection, and leveraging local and national law enforcement partnerships.

*a. Maximizing organizational efficiencies*

As part of the Department's continuous transformation, we are working on a Department-wide reorganization plan. Not only is this in response to the recommendations and findings of the various audits and reviews of the Department, it is also necessary to establish a structure that fosters and reinforces accountability, training, internal controls, and employee development. We have submitted our proposal to the Capitol Police Board, which currently has it under review. Once approved, it will allow a number of senior leadership positions to be filled.

*b. Modernizing technology*

In order to better protect Members and their families, we need to invest in the best security technology. From equipping Member residences with state-of-the-art security equipment to standing up a protection operations center, we must have access to the latest and most effective technology.

*c. Increasing member protection*

Our ability to enhance the protection of Members and their families is part of a holistic law enforcement and investigative process. It is not

enough to identify and deter bad actors. Those that commit prosecutable offenses must be called to account for their actions within the criminal justice system. We have made significant inroads on that front by the establishment of two field offices—in San Francisco and Tampa—staffed with two USCP Special Agents and a USCP attorney embedded at the U.S. Attorney’s office in those districts to investigate and prosecute threats against Members of Congress. A third attorney will soon be detailed to the U.S. Attorney’s Office in D.C. for that purpose. I am hoping to expand this model nationwide. While recognizing that threats cases are difficult to prosecute, it is disheartening to me that our prosecution rate remains low.

*d. Leveraging local and national law enforcement partnerships.*

The Emergency Security Supplemental Security Act was a game-changer for us. Thanks to that funding, we have been able to enter into memoranda of understanding with various local law enforcement agencies to provide an additional level of protection when Members are in their home districts, as well as when Members are within the Capitol Complex. We

hope to continue these efforts by strengthening existing partnerships and creating new ones.

### ***Conclusion***

In closing, I want to thank the Committee for its ongoing support as we continue our upward trajectory and positive evolution. I would also like to thank Sen. Blunt for his support of the Department and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

I am steadfast and resolute in ensuring that an incident like January 6 never happens again. That means we must continue to quickly assess, adjust, and utilize all our resources to stay ahead of those who would do us harm. One of my biggest priorities was, and continues to be, ensuring that each and every officer that wears the USCP uniform know that the Department cares about them, and that leadership cares about them. I do not intend to let them down, nor the Members of Congress, staff, and visitors that we are sworn to protect. And while more work remains to be done, I could not be more proud of the men and women of the Capitol Police, who keep us safe each and every day.