



BALTIMORE CITY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, LODGE #3



December 20, 2021

To the People of Baltimore and Maryland,

For the past few days, I have been focused on the vile ambush shooting of our colleague, Keona Holley, and all of our BPD and FOP3 family members. I have given much thought to how things have changed in my 33 years as a Baltimore Police Officer/Detective/Sgt and my current position as President of the Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3.

In this time of contemplation, I have come to realize that Baltimore and its citizens have reached a crossroads in the path toward the future. You can no longer be still, as the path ahead has so completely diverged as to make silence no longer an option. The politicians running Baltimore and Annapolis have defunded the police in a now obvious way allowing attrition and recruitment to be ignored, causing our ranks to fall some six hundred officers short of what is needed. What has happened to our ability to protect the city is devastating. Since 2015, there have been 2318 victims of homicide and 4848 victims of shootings, all while in conjunction with a massive exodus of dedicated members of our agency. Yet absolutely nothing has been done to stop either.

In a recent forum, Senator Jill Carter stated that she believed the shooting of Police Officer Holley was a symptom of the breakdown of trust between the people and the Baltimore Police Department. This statement is categorically false. Keona was gravely wounded because the men who have been charged with her attempted murder are despicably evil men who proceeded to kill a civilian male about an hour later. What does trust have to do with the current homicide rate in Baltimore? Is it a lack of trust that causes one drug gang to shoot another drug gang? This is about the total lawlessness allowed to prosper in Baltimore due to our elected officials' destructive policies and ideologies. Unfortunately for all of us, Senator Carter is not alone in espousing this rhetoric over and over again. And even more troubling is the fact that Senate President Bill Ferguson says nothing to condemn these ridiculous claims, which, in essence, indicates his unconditional support.

What you have heard from Senator Carter and those of her ilk is nonsense. A few politicians in Annapolis and Baltimore City have bravely stood up in opposition to the outspoken "Jill Carters" and the silent "Bill Fergusons." Law enforcement appreciates their ability to speak the truth through the cloud of false claims and cop-hating narratives. I have heard from several politicians in Annapolis over the past few days that I never thought would reach out. They, too, have had enough of this sickness that has taken over much of the state legislature. They have advised me that others of their colleagues, who previously felt the need to "go along," have also had enough.

The time has come for Baltimore's agonized citizens and Marylanders alike to take a stand! Are you willing to continue along the path to the destruction of all that is good about Baltimore and its people? Or will you denounce those who allow the destruction to spread and thrive? We, the courageous men and women of the Baltimore Police Department, will stand and fight to the last officer. Still, we would rather move toward a well-funded and staffed department that works under sound and fair policies and a constructive crime plan. This is not a political issue of left vs. right, nor is it a rift between Baltimore's citizens and their sworn protectors. This is simply a fight between good vs. evil, and we must each decide where we stand. I ask you to think about your own beliefs and determine if you have had enough of the lawlessness. Join us to demand that your politicians stop the tired soundbites and formulate a real crime plan.

The 2022 Legislative Session will begin in January, and we are asking for your support. Reach out to your legislators and let them know that you're not going to take it anymore. Use your voices to demand action and change before it's too late.

Respectfully,
Mike Mancuso
President