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June 24, 2020

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Delegate Patrick A. Hope
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Senator Adam P. Ebbin
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Delegate Kaye Kory
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Senator Barbara A. Favola
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Delegate Paul E. Krizek
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Delegate Vivian E Watts
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Senator Scott A. Surovell
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Re: United States Park Police Reforms

Dear Senators Boysko, Ebbin, Favola, Marsden, Petersen, and Surovell and Delegates Hope, Kory, Krizek, Tran and Watts:

Thank you for expressing concerns over the relationship that a number of Northern Virginia local government police departments have with the United States Park Police (USPP) as well as articulating common sense reforms. Upon receipt of your letter, I inquired of the City Manager about City interaction

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Department (APD) has two limited scope Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the USPP. One is to assist the USPP with activities related to 4th of July celebrations within the District of Columbia. The other agreement specifically addresses any Presidential Inaugural events the USPP may be working in the District. The City has no separate civil disturbance assistance agreement with USPP.

The MOU that addresses USPP mutual aid requests for civil disturbances and other situations is the agreement managed by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (MWCOG). Under this broad MWCOG agreement are also several other existing agreements for mutual collaboration involving all the participating MWCOG entities. One of those is documents is the Police Mutual Aid Plan. This specific plan governs mutual aid requests from participating police agencies.

APD did receive a mutual aid request from USPP during the recent June 1 situation at Lafayette Square. Our Chief of Police, Michael L. Brown, declined to participate because he wanted to keep APD resources within our City given the uncertainty of events at that time. He was also concerned about the stated mission of the mutual aid request and some issues related to command/control.

Staff's recent experience and research into this issue has collectively led the City to the conclusion there is a need to review not only agreements with the USPP, but also the other policing agreements the City has with other jurisdictions. This would include the MWCOG mutual aid agreement. Chief Brown has already started this review and will be working with our City Attorney and City Manager on this effort which will also need to entail a discussion and review at the MWCOG level. I intend to raise this issue with other elected officials at MWCOG as well.

Thank you for your expression of concern over the response to the Lafayette Square demonstrations and our City's involvement in police mutual aid response with the USPP.

Sincerely,



Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

Cc: Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman, Fairfax Board of Supervisors
Libby Garvey, Chair, Arlington County Board
The Honorable Members of City Council
Mark B. Jinks, City Manager
Joanna C. Anderson, City Attorney
Debra R. Collins, Deputy City Manager
Chief Michael L. Brown, Alexandria Police Department
Sarah G. Taylor, Legislative Director