



Fraternal Order of Police
BALTIMORE CITY LODGE No. 3
3920 BUENA VISTA AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21211
Phone: (410) 243-9141
Fax: (410) 467-1643
Twitter: @FOP3



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PRESS STATEMENT

Yesterday (02/07/2019), Acting Police Commissioner Tuggle held a quickly scheduled press conference for the purpose of addressing the numbers of currently assigned Patrol Officers and the effect of the newly implemented shift schedule. Unfortunately, I was only invited to attend the presser with 45 minutes notice and, due to scheduling conflicts, was unable to be there. Instead, please accept the following as my rebuttal.

While at the podium, Police Commissioner Tuggle was asked if the Mayor was correct in stating that, after the negotiated schedule change, there would be a 25% increase in officers working in Patrol. Police Commissioner Tuggle replied, "Yes that is correct". He further stated that it varies between 18% and 25%. The reality is that on 1/31/2019, the authorized patrol strength was deemed 1,102 by the Chief of Patrol's Office; however; in truth, only 794 officers are actually assigned. Of those 794 officers, only 656 were available for full duty. On 2/6/2019, 3 days after the schedule was implemented, the authorized patrol strength was 1,102 with only 791 officers assigned. Of those 791 officers, only 659 were available for full duty.

When asked, "Do officers need to be paid more money to stay in Baltimore?", he again answered, "YES". If this were the case why did the city, during the most recent contract negotiations, only offer police officers a 3% raise per year? Without question, wages are very important to our members and we are acutely aware that we currently lag behind other jurisdictions, in terms of pay. However, even more disconcerting to our members, and the reason so many are currently leaving, are the substandard conditions in which they work. Patrol cars do not function. Our facilities, citywide, are dangerously filthy to a point that would not be acceptable in the Baltimore City Jail. Current technology is a complete failure. There is no existing crime plan. There are conflicting messages about how to combat crime. There are failed policies. And, just as importantly, there is an inability to treat officers with the professionalism and respect they deserve.

Yesterday, it was stated that the BPD fielded 406 officers under the 4x10 schedule; however, as of the 2/3/2019 implementation of the new schedule, that number will only increase to 423. This is not 25% more; in fact, it is only 4.2% more.

The constants within the patrol schedule to which Police Commissioner Tuggle referred, are listed in the table to the right. Clearly, this number is far too low based on the amount of crime and the volume of 911 calls handled by the BPD. Patrol officers are placed in a G3 status every night; a status that directs officers to only handle Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls for service. As a result, citizens who call 911 in Baltimore may not see a police officer for hours, if at all, when they call with a non-priority incident anytime between 6PM and 2AM each night. These numbers also assume that there are no absent officers, for any reason, including training, medical leave, court appearances, vacation, etc. Our members are extremely concerned that the staffing constants are not allowing them to obtain any of the leave granted them as a result of the current labor agreement. In essence, these constants are basically a “shell game” intended to make the deployment numbers appear to be far more acceptable than they are, in reality.

Daily Shift Constants

Daily Staffing Constants				
District	A Shift Total	B Shift Total	C Shift Total	Total
Central	14	15	15	44
Southeastern	14	15	15	44
Eastern	13	14	14	41
Northeastern	21	22	22	65
Northern	15	16	16	47
Northwestern	14	15	15	44
Western	14	15	15	44
Southwestern	15	16	16	47
Southern	15	16	16	47
Total	135	144	144	423

According to Police Commissioner Tuggle’s statement, he refers to the 1,062 Patrol personnel that are assigned across all 9 districts. According to a 2/6/2019 report from the Chief of Patrol’s Office, there are 1,337 authorized but 1,044 assigned. This is 18 fewer than the number that Police Commissioner Tuggle reports, and 293 fewer than the authorized strength.

The Department has set staffing goals but has made no substantial moves to achieve these goals. Our Police Officers deserve better and the public deserves a realistic anticipation of what they can expect from police services. To do anything less contributes to the public mistrust of the Baltimore Police Department and the dissatisfaction of our members. The BPD must be factual in their responses and transparent with the resources it has to fight crime.

Det/Sgt Mike Mancuso
President