



Fraternal Order of Police
BALTIMORE CITY LODGE No. 3

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April 1, 2019

Statement from President Mike Mancuso

The fact that the union representing the rank and file members of the Baltimore City Fire Department (IAFF Local #734) feels the need to alert the citizens of Baltimore about the current state of public safety in our city is no surprise to FOP #3. We have been voicing our own concerns for several months and we stand with our Brothers and Sisters in the City Fire Service.

The members of FOP Lodge #3 have been continuously blamed for the budget excesses caused by the lack of manpower, yet we are not responsible for recruitment and retention. That is the responsibility of our agency leadership and our elected officials. Despite what Mayor Pugh and the members of her administration want the public to believe, those substantial budget overages are being implemented just to fill the police cruisers and fire emergency vehicles at a bare minimum level of safety and efficiency. We believe that our citizens deserve more. They don't deserve, nor should they receive, only the minimum levels of protection and service. And, our members deserve more, as well. We have been carrying the burden of this mismanagement through three years of contract negotiations, when we attempted to help the city with the recruitment and retention issue. We were advised, however, that they were already working on the issue. Obviously not! Excellent public safety shouldn't be just a distant possibility; it should be the standard by which all of us, including our local politicians, should be measured.

The time has come for the Mayor, along with Police Commissioner Harrison, Chief Ford, and the members of the Baltimore City Council, to acknowledge the concerns of both of our unions and to act swiftly in order to address these issues. Our lives, the lives of the good people of Baltimore City, and our visitors depend on it.