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Yesterday's Mayoral press conference is just another example of how out of touch this administration has become. This is not the first year we have had over 300 homicides, so why has it taken so long for this "plan" to be presented? The idea for a citywide coordination to assist in the fight on crime is not new and has been promoted by law enforcement experts, and others, for years. It's not rocket science and to see it announced as though a light bulb suddenly went off in the minds of both the Mayor and Police Commissioner is terribly disconcerting. This was just another Jedi mind trick perpetrated on the citizens and media of Baltimore. At this point, 347 people are dead and there have been almost another 1000 failed murders this year, all a result of the complete ineffectiveness of the team at the top of the fight to protect the public's safety.

As for Commissioner Harrison's suggestion that the FOP leadership does not speak for the rank and file members of the BPD, we can say, without question, that claim is patently untrue. It is laughable when the PC says things like the men and women of the department tell him the opposite of what you hear from FOP leadership. Commissioner Harrison, the rank and file know this is a paramilitary organization and fear retribution if they tell you exactly how they feel about your crime fight. We hear the truth from them, and it is contrary to your claims of support. Unlike the PC, our FOP leadership listens to our members every day. We hear directly from them - their problems, their complaints, and their struggles.

The rank and file of the BPD are stretched thin! Our patrol ranks remain hundreds of officers short and our detectives are handling caseloads that would make law enforcement experts gasp if they knew the volume. The Commissioner's plan to solicit help from both the Federal and State governments has, unfortunately, become his only option. He cannot recruit or retain BPD officers because of the working conditions, the unrealistic expectations of the Consent Decree, and the consistent fear of unwarranted prosecution against our members. Currently, the 2019 numbers reflect a deficit of 25 officers when factoring the number hired versus the number resigning or retiring.

We ask that the citizens of Baltimore know that the men and women of the BPD understand how difficult these times are for them. We continue to work every day to provide as much protection as possible. Sadly, though, we do not have the support of the City's leadership or the current BPD administration. Each day another policy or plan is announced that effectively neuters our ability to help you! We believe that Baltimore will, someday, turn around but not with the current leadership team.