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## **For Immediate Release**

December 20, 2019

On Friday December 6, 2019, at the invitation of President Donald Trump, I attended a meeting at the White House, along with several other Fraternal Order of Police leaders from cities around the country. In the course of that meeting, President Trump, and other members of his administration, assured us that they were concerned about the issues specific to our various agencies and jurisdictions and would do whatever possible to provide us with assistance and support. This week, Attorney General William Barr announced *Operation Relentless Pursuit*, a detailed plan to provide Federal aid and resources to Baltimore and 7 additional US cities. Also, on December 11, 2019, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced an initiative to provide State support to Baltimore in the form of additional manpower and funding to not only fight crime, but also to provide supplementary attorneys in order to insure greater and more proficient prosecutions.

The assistance provided by both the Trump and Hogan administrations cannot come at a more important time. Inadequate City leadership has created a struggling police force. Our highly committed and brave men and women have shown great courage despite attacks on several fronts. What was once an urgent problem has now exploded into a very dire situation. This week alone the violent crime numbers are staggering. Attorney General Barr referred to Baltimore as the “robbery capital” of the country, in addition to the city with the second highest per capita homicide rate.

Needless to say, we would like to express our gratitude to our President and our Governor for their continued support of our law enforcement community as we do all that we can to underscore the significant deterioration of a once proud and vibrant city, with hope for a better new year.

Mike Mancuso