

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Karen Gibson  
Acting Chairman, Capitol Police Board  
Senate Sergeant at Arms  
Room S-151, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Blodgett  
Member, Capitol Police Board  
Acting House Sergeant at Arms  
Room H-124, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable. J. Brett Blanton  
Member, Capitol Police Board  
Architect of the Capitol  
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Yogananda Pittman  
Ex-Officio Member, Capitol Police Board  
Acting Chief, U.S. Capitol Police  
119 D Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of the Capitol Police Board,

We first want to express our gratitude for your work to keep Members, staff, and visitors on and around the Capitol campus safe. Since the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack, your teams have worked tirelessly to maintain peace, safety, and order in the Capitol Complex. Thank you.

However, we write today to express frustration with your unwillingness to release information to the public or answer media questions regarding the events of January 6<sup>th</sup>, the current security posture of the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and plans to secure the Capitol Complex in the mid- and long-term future.

The entire world bore witness as a secure perimeter was breached at the U.S. Capitol on the afternoon of January 6<sup>th</sup>. A vulnerability at the heart of our nation's democracy was suddenly laid bare for all Americans to see. Restoring security at our nation's Capital in a sustainable manner therefore requires more than just increased equipment and personnel; it means publicly acknowledging the critical deficiencies that existed, discussing transparency and accountability goals with relevant stakeholders, and sharing plans for how it will be made safe for citizens to once again visit *their* Capitol and engage in the nation's business.

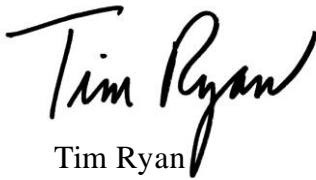
As you know, the USCP Inspector General (IG) is conducting a review of the events that transpired on January 6<sup>th</sup> to determine what went wrong from a planning, policy, and intelligence gathering perspective, and to make recommendations on how to fix those problems within the department. This report will be a vital step to help better protect the Capitol Complex. We urge you to make the final IG report, and any interim reports completed prior to the final report, available to the public.

Additionally, neither the USCP leadership, nor the Capitol Police Board, have conducted any public press briefings in the months after the insurrection, and we have not heard of any

commitment from you all to hold any in the future. We ask that you hold regular press conferences updating the public on any threats to Congress. We also request that you share progress being made to strengthen USCP to protect the Capitol Complex, Members, staff, and the visiting public. We fully anticipate that sensitive details would remain confidential but expect USCP to share as much information as possible.

In the wake of the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack that shook the confidence of so many Americans, taking a more open and transparent approach isn't just the right thing to do, it will be the most effective as we seek to restore citizens' confidence that the heart of America's government is secure. We stand ready to work with you to enact necessary reforms and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Tim Ryan  
Chairman  
House Legislative Branch Subcommittee



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Ranking Member  
House Legislative Branch Subcommittee