

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

June 13, 2023

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) and the over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers we represent across the country, I am writing to reiterate our serious concerns with the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act (CPJRAA), enacted by the Council of the District of Columbia on January 19, 2023. Congress voted to nullify the CPJRAA on May 16 when it passed H.J. Res. 42, sending it to the President who soon vetoed it.

By allowing the CPJRAA to stand, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the City it serves will be negatively impacted. Most significantly, it strips the men and women of the MPD of their right to bargain over accountability or disciplinary issues. This creates unfair, substandard collective bargaining rights for the officers, setting them apart from the rest of their fellow public servants in the District, who are allowed to bargain over disciplinary issues.

Further, the CPJRAA undermines officers' Constitutional rights, including the right to due process, a right we give to all citizens. This is incredibly concerning. Without guidelines and procedures to protect officers' due process, officers are too often subjected to the whim of their departments or local politics during internal investigations and administrative hearings. The CPJRAA also violates officers' right to privacy by disclosing officer disciplinary records, without regard to personal identifiable information, which risks putting officers and their families in harm's way.

NAPO is concerned the CPJRAA will exacerbate the current hiring and retention crisis the MPD is facing. With the City Council not respecting or trusting the officers who serve and protect their citizens, it will hinder recruitment and impact officer morale. Therefore, we urge you to overturn the President's veto and vote in favor of H.J. Res. 42 when it comes up for a vote.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq. **Executive Director**