

**Statement of
Phillip D. Morse, Sr.
Chief of Police, United States Capitol Police
Before the
Committee on House Administration
Subcommittee on Capitol Security
United States House of Representatives**

July 29, 2010

Chairman Capuano, Ranking Member Lungren and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today regarding "U.S. Capitol Police Budget Concerns". I would also like to thank you for your sustained and unwavering support for the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police.

As you know, earlier this year the Department discovered that we had made a salaries calculation error in our FY 2010 and FY 2011 budget requests, which has resulted in a projected FY 2010 salaries shortfall. As a result, the Department submitted a budget amendment for our FY 2011 budget request.

Once I learned of the problem, I took immediate action to assess the issue, coordinate with the Capitol Police Board, notify our oversight committees, stabilize our FY 2010 budget execution, and develop a plan to address the problem.

As part of addressing this problem, I asked my Executive Management Team to conduct an Investment Review Board to identify general expense funding for potential reprogramming to address the salaries shortfall with a primary focus on maintaining our security and law enforcement mission and mitigating possible

impacts on our workforce. This effort resulted in the set-aside of critical general expense funding sufficient to address the shortfall within our stated goal of mitigating impacts.

Additionally, the Capitol Police Board provided their technical experts to assist the Department in validating our FY 2011 budget resubmission, as well as providing technical guidance on our efforts to address the FY 2010 shortfall.

Further, the Government Accountability Office continues to provide its assistance and guidance to the Department in addressing outstanding audit recommendations and incorporating best practices into the Department's efforts to resolve our budget formulation issues.

Concurrent with this effort, I asked the U.S. Capitol Police Inspector General to conduct an audit of our fiscal years 2010 and 2011 budget formulation processes and to provide me with a report as soon as possible, so I may take any necessary immediate corrective actions. Specifically, I requested that he look at and validate the FY 2010 impact, review and validate our FY 2011 budget request and make recommendations to me on how to improve our processes, so we could implement needed changes for our FY 2012 budget formulation process.

The Inspector General has completed his audit and provided an audit report of findings to me and the Capitol Police Board. His report contained several

recommendations to assist the Department in strengthening its financial management practices, to include our future budget formulation processes. I have reviewed the report and its recommendations and I generally agree with them.

To address the recommendations with a focus on ensuring that this failure does not occur again, we are actively realigning our processes to adopt those suggestions from within the report, we are developing standard operating procedures to formalize our budget formulation processes, and we are working in a collaborative manner with the Capitol Police Board to implement their guidance and recommendations. Our focus is on ensuring we have the necessary people and processes in place to perform the financial management requirements of the Department in a fiscally responsible and transparent manner, consistent with the expectations of our stakeholders and the public.

In closing, I want to assure you that we understand the gravity of the issues that caused this problem and we are taking the necessary steps to correct them. While these issues have been significant, please be assured that we have taken every measure to mitigate the effect on our mission and our personnel.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and would be glad to answer your questions.