



SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

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Edward D. Mullins
President

September 15, 2020

Vincent J. Vallelong
Vice President

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Paul Capotosto
Treasurer

Dear Senator Tillis:

John Dorst
Recording Secretary

I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department (SBA) to advise you of our strong support for the legislation you intend to introduce, the "Protect and Serve Act." This important bill ensures that those who target law enforcement officers for violence will be brought to justice. After a summer filled with attacks on the police, and pandering state and local prosecutors who refuse to act against the perpetrators of this violence, I can think of no more timely or important legislation to ensure the safety of the men and women I represent.

Anthony Borelli
Financial Secretary

Vincent Guida
Health & Welfare Secretary

Edmund Small
City-Wide Secretary

For law enforcement officers today, it is a simple fact that they must maintain constant vigilance to the threats posed by those who seek to do them harm for nothing more than the badge and uniform they wear. Proof of this reality was on full display this past weekend as two Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies were targeted for assassination in a brutal and cowardly ambush attack. Even more shocking were the efforts of anarchists and anti-police forces to prevent the officers from receiving prompt medical attention by blocking access to the hospital to which they were taken. While we are grateful for their survival and pray for their speedy recovery, it reminds us of a similar incident in 2014 which claimed the lives of Hero NYPD Detectives Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. Unfortunately, they will not be the last.

The unbridled violence that continues to plague our cities has provided further evidence of the callous disregard that many in our society have towards the men and women of law enforcement. It is not just the criminal who fired the bullets who must be brought to justice, but also the hateful mob that descended on the hospital, blocked entrances, and chanted that they hoped the Deputies died. Because these types of attacks threaten to unravel the fundamental bond of our Nation—the rule of law—they must be met with the harshest of penalties. And yet the eventual prosecution of the assailant in Los Angeles, as well as scores of other pending cases involving attacks on law enforcement, are in the hands of

state and local officials who have allowed their own jurisdictions to descend into lawless chaos over the past four months. This does not inspire any degree of confidence.

It is for these reasons and many others that our organization is proud to support the “Protect and Serve Act,” which will help to address the rise in attacks on, and increase the protection of, state and local law enforcement. Specifically, the bill combats targeted violence against law enforcement officers by creating a new federal crime for knowingly assaulting, or attempting to assault, a law enforcement officer causing serious bodily injury. It would also permit the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to assume jurisdiction and prosecute these heinous attacks on law enforcement in those instances where the state has requested that DOJ assume jurisdiction, or where federal prosecution is in the public interest to secure justice. Penalties under the Act would range from up to 10 years in federal prison to a life sentence if death results from the offense, or the offense involved kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, or an attempt to kill.

On behalf of the membership of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, thank you again for your leadership on this important legislation, and for your continued support of America’s federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg at (202) 457 – 7756, if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Mullins".

Ed Mullins
President