

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATE PUBLIC HEARING
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE RELATING TO URBAN VIOLENCE

TESTIMONY OF JIM MALLOY, PRESIDENT
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
PITTSBURGH LODGE No. 1

Good morning, my name is Jim Malloy, and I am the President of Pittsburgh Lodge #1 of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Today, I will begin by thanking Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Stewart Greenleaf and Jay Costa for holding these meeting concerning such an important issue as urban violence in Pennsylvania.

Urban Violence in Pittsburgh has caused far more damage than the destruction of human life and injury to the innocent by-stander. Pittsburgh has experienced approximately 196 people killed or injured by gunfire in violent acts so far this year, which is a depressing statistic.

Urban Violence on the streets of downtown Pittsburgh has caused many businesses to close and shop owners to close their doors for good, leaving empty store fronts behind.

Urban Violence has caused the people of many parts of our city to keep their children off of the streets after dark and close at hand in the daylight hours.

Urban Violence has caused witnesses to these violent acts to turn their backs and walk away, not wanting to become involved because of fear for their own safety.

Urban Violence has caused a major back-up of criminal cases before the Courts causing delays in justice and in many cases lesser sentences for those who commit violent crimes, just to clear the court calendar.

Urban Violence has over crowded the Allegheny County jail system which has forced the Warden's to release career criminals back to the streets, to comply with court ordered jail occupancy levels.

The answer is not just to throw money at the problem, but the answers may be:

- **To hire more Police Officers to walk beats and become more familiar with the community and the people that they serve.**
- **To create a State organized Witness Protection Program that would permit the rapid movement of witnesses to other locations and involve Police Departments to assist in the witness's safety.**
- **To get the community involved through their Clergy and Senior Citizens Groups and to get their prospective on how to overcome the violence in the communities in which they live.**
- **To support neighborhood youth activity groups.**

- **To involve the State Police Drug Task Force with the local Police Department's in dealing with drug problems.**
- **To provide funds to the Police agencies fighting the organized drug problem in the neighborhood.**

The Pittsburgh Police Officers have been short handed for some time because of Act 47 coupled with mismanagement of funds and an archaic tax base. The Crime Rate is un-sympatric toward the problems of the short handed Police Department. The Pittsburgh Police Bureau has a meager force of 845 Officers, including the Chief of Police.

- In 2005 we had 228,781 calls for service
- In 2005 we had 4,018 calls of shots fired
- In 2005 we had 149 Officers assaulted, 17 of those Officers were shot at or cut.
- **So far this year we have had 36 murdered citizens and an additional 160 shot or wounded.**

We recognize that the duty of a Police Officer is placing their body and life at risk but the Police Officer of Pittsburgh is taking these risks without the equipment to give them a fair chance of not getting injured. More than 50% of the Police patrol cars have over 90,000 miles on them and many have 125,000 miles or more. The cost to assist in correcting this problem would be approximately \$1,000,000.

Over half of the Pittsburgh Police Officers do not have the Tazer (a self defense weapon). The Tazer has in fact proven to cut the number of Officers injured by violent suspects. The cost to correct this problem is approximately \$280,000.

Pittsburgh is indeed the victim of Act 47. The Act 47 team and Oversight Board cut and slashed the budget of Pittsburgh but failed to take into account the aging communication system to the Pittsburgh Police Department. They failed to leave enough funds in the budget to repair or replace police radios that parts are no longer available because the company that manufactured the parts to repair the radios no longer exists. The Pittsburgh Police Officers need to go to a better and more effective portable and base radio system. The cost to replace the current aging system is approximately 1.7 million dollars.

Soon there will be gambling casino in Pittsburgh and it will bring with it a host of criminal problems. We need additional police to deal with these new issues.

The Police Officers in Pittsburgh need your help to secure a new Allegheny County Tax System that shall earmark funds for Police equipment and personnel exclusively, to serve the People who live in and/or visit our City.

President Jim Malloy
Pittsburgh FOP Lodge No. 1