

Committee on House Administration
Subcommittee on Capitol Security
Administration and Management of the United States Capitol Police
Thursday May 1, 2008
Chairman Michael E. Capuano
Opening Statement

Good morning and welcome to the Subcommittee on Capitol Security's hearing on the Administration and Management of the United States Capitol Police.

Today is my first hearing as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Capitol Security. It was scheduled by Chairman Brady before I was named to head this Subcommittee and I am very happy to continue his efforts on these matters. Although some hearings may be open to the public like this one, there are a whole host of issues relating to the security of the Capitol Complex that are not appropriate to review in a public setting. Recognizing this reality, I also expect that the Subcommittee will hold a fair number of confidential meetings.

This morning we will receive an administrative update from the Capitol Police, who will share with us how they have responded to recent recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office. It's my understanding that they have been working diligently over the past year to assess and revamp internal policies and procedures, as well as bring the Department's technical capabilities in line with the 21st century demands put on the force. I look forward to hearing about the progress they have made and learning more about their efforts to address any outstanding issues raised by the GAO.

Today we will also learn more about the status of the merger of the Library of Congress Police and the Capitol Police Force, as well as steps being taken to incorporate other new elements in our overall approach to security.

Much has been asked of the Capitol Police in recent years, as we all get a sense of the expanding nature of security threats and the necessity of having capable men and women serve in uniform. They must align management, policies, and procedures to better protect and secure Congress in a post-September 11th world. Their ability to recruit, train, and retain the very best personnel is essential to the safety of everyone visiting the Capitol and those working in Congress. The Capitol Police should be given the encouragement and tools necessary to make this a reality.

I am pleased that the Subcommittee will have the opportunity to hear the Capitol Police address all of these issues, as well as to receive feedback from the GAO and the United States Capitol Police Labor Committee. We all strive for a truly secure Capitol complex, and I believe that this cooperation on a large scale can help achieve that end goal.

In closing, I would like to thank Ranking Member Lungren and everyone in the audience for joining us today, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.