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Federal, State, and County Public Employee Unions Urge County Voters to Oppose Ballot Question B to Support Police Families

Condemn Hypocrisy of Reversing 30-Year Law and Misinformation Campaign By Montgomery County Council Using Taxpayer Funds

Gaithersburg, MD - On Wednesday, numerous labor leaders spoke out in support of the Fraternal Order of Police at a press conference urging voters to oppose ballot question B in support of police officers and their families.

“Over the years, our first responders have been asked by us to make extraordinary sacrifices for Montgomery families. They have done everything asked of us, and now it’s our turn,” stated State Senator Roger Manno.

The FOP was joined by dozens of local labor supporters who turned out to demonstrate their solidarity against the Scott Walker-type, anti-Labor-Rights Effort in Montgomery County, Maryland.

In addition to Senator Roger Manno, Maryland General Assembly Delegate Charles Barkley was in attendance. *Twenty* labor unions came out in support of the Fraternal Order of Police, including Nathan Saunders from the Washington Teachers Union, Joslyn Williams of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO, Fred Mason of Maryland State AFL-CIO, Gino Renne of the Montgomery County Government Employees Organization, John Sparks of the Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Association, and John “Johnnie” Walker of the American Federation of Government Employees AFL-CIO.

“An injury to the FOP is an injury to organized labor,” stated Joslyn Williams of the Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO.

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“This is my fight. This is local 1994’s fight and we will fight to the bitter end. Why? Let me be clear. Because the FOP, the fighters, and every other union that represents individuals in the state of Maryland are part of the greater Maryland labor family and if you attack one you are going to fight us all. It’s that simple,” stated Gino Renne of the Montgomery County Government Employees Organization.

“What makes this issue so important to us as police officers who leave our homes to go out and protect the community is this is about our family,” said Montgomery Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 35 Treasurer and Past President Marc Zifcak.

Lanny J. Davis, attorney for the police, reiterated his challenge to Council President Berliner to meet him in a series of debates before Legislative District precinct officials in the near future.

Question B, if approved, would hurt county police and their families by barring police from requiring discussions on the effects of police management decisions on them and their families. Under current law, if management decisions address significant public safety issues, management can implement those decisions immediately without any delay. All other decisions can be implemented within 50 days – less than two months.

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