



July 16th, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Budget Cuts

Nashville, TN— The Nashville Fraternal Order of Police would like to release this statement on recent information regarding cuts to the MNPD budget.

Last week, the Fraternal Order of Police learned of a memo sent to the director of MNPD finance entailing several concerns about the MNPD FY2020 budget. Of those concerns is the cutting of nearly \$2 million dollars from the MNPD's budget and the lack of funding for Mayor Briley's highly touted 6.4% increase for new hires coming to the department; a total impact of nearly \$2.5 million.

Defunding the MNPD budget by \$2 million dollars can only be realized by reduction in staffing which will severely compromise the excellent service we offer to Nashvillians every day. Not funding the 6.4% increase to new hires will certainly aid in that cut as we will not be able to recruit new employees to the MNPD in the current environment that is plaguing departments nationwide.

This financial shell game has, of course, been kept quiet from the public. In an effort to ensure the public is wholly informed of Mayor Briley's budgeting practices, the FOP has purchased billboards in the Nashville area to ensure the general public is aware of the compromised state of our public safety. The MNPD currently has 170 vacancies, leaving fewer officers on the street to respond to calls for service. If this budgeting practice, that devalues and demoralizes our officers continues, we will find ourselves amidst a public safety crisis that we cannot reverse. This is completely unacceptable and should cause serious concern for anyone in the Nashville community.



The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement personnel, with more than 347,000 members in more than 2,200 lodges. Andrew Jackson Lodge 5 of the Fraternal Order of Police is an organization made up of full-time and retired full time law enforcement. Lodge 5 is open to local, state and federal law enforcement personnel stationed in the Nashville area.

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