

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 25, 2025

Ms. Pamela A. Smith  
Chief of Police  
Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chief Smith:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating disturbing allegations that DC crime data is inaccurate and intentionally manipulated, potentially at the direction of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) leadership.<sup>1</sup> MPD has a duty under federal and local law to accurately report crime to the public.<sup>2</sup> However, in May, MPD placed Third District Commander Michael Pulliam on administrative leave following allegations that he altered crime reports.<sup>3</sup> Media accounts of the incident additionally noted that “the [police] union claims police supervisors in the department manipulate crime data to make it appear violent crime has fallen considerably compared to last year.”<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately this practice does not appear to be isolated, nor is it a recent development. MPD recently entered into a settlement agreement related to allegations that senior MPD officials were engaged in falsifying crime statistics to artificially lower reported crime rates.<sup>5</sup> In light of these reports and a related whistleblower disclosure made to the Committee, the Committee requests documents and information, as well as transcribed interviews with the District Commanders of each of the seven patrol districts, and Commander Pulliam to assist its investigation of this matter.

A whistleblower with knowledge of internal MPD operations and discussions around crime statistics provided the Committee with information related to allegations that crime statistics were manipulated on a widespread basis and at the direction of supervisory officials within MPD. According to the whistleblower, although MPD took action with respect to a single District Commander, this problem potentially impacts all seven patrol districts. In fact, the

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Wagner, *DC police commander suspended, accused of changing crime statistics*, NBC NEWS4 WASHINGTON (July 18, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> 28 U.S.C. 534; D.C. Code §5-113.01

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Alana Goodman, *A DC Police Sergeant Exposed Her Superiors for Misclassifying Crimes to Make Stats Look Low. The City Just Quietly Settled Her Lawsuit*, THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (Aug. 14, 2025).

whistleblower's disclosure indicates that MPD leadership routinely instructed District Commanders to downgrade charges to artificially reduce certain crime statistics.

The whistleblower stated this manipulation is accomplished by supervisors—with only a cursory understanding of the facts and circumstances of the crime—ignoring the judgement of patrol officers who actually interviewed witnesses and collected evidence by recommending reduced charges. If recommended charges in a particular case are being downgraded to present the false narrative of a safer city, a byproduct of this manipulation is that prosecutors responsible for holding offenders accountable may be misled on the seriousness of a particular crime.

On August 11, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order entitled, "Restoring Law and Order in the District of Columbia," to combat the city's crime crisis.<sup>6</sup> This Executive Order is a direct response to a lack of faith in city leadership to put an end to high levels of violent crime. All those living, working, and visiting our nation's capital deserve a safe city, and misleading the public through manipulation of crime statistics could further erode faith in city leadership and law enforcement in general. As the Committee of jurisdiction over the municipal affairs of the District of Columbia, it is imperative that the Committee determine whether legislation is needed to ensure that city law enforcement are enabled to perform their duties without pressure to manipulate data for the benefit of superiors.

To assist the Committee in its investigation, please provide the following documents and information, covering the time period January 1, 2024, to the present, no later than September 2, 2025:

1. All crime reports (including responding officer's narrative as well as all amended reports), the audit trail on these reports and memoranda for all crimes whose classification has been changed;
2. All communications among or between MPD leadership and any other city officials regarding efforts to reclassify or amend crime reports;
3. All communications related to weekly District Commander meetings, including but not limited to calendar invites and meeting minutes;
4. A full, unredacted copy of the settlement agreement between MPD and/or the City of Washington, DC and Sergeant Charlotte Djossou; and,
5. All documents and communications among or between MPD and any other entity or official related to Sergeant Charlotte Djossou's accusations of manipulation of crime statistics and/or the settlement agreement referenced above.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/restoring-law-and-order-in-the-district-of-columbia/>

In addition, to Commander Pulliam, the Committee also requests you make all seven MPD District Commanders available to appear for transcribed interviews on the following dates:

1. Michael Pulliam—September 23  
Former Commander, Third District
2. Colin Hall—September 26  
Commander, First District
3. Tatjana Savoy—September 29  
Commander Second District
4. Sean Connors—October 2  
Commander, Third District
5. Nikki Lavenhouse—October 6  
Commander, Fourth District
6. Shawn Rooney—October 10  
Commander, Fifth District
7. Jaron Hickman—October 17  
Commander, Sixth District
8. James Boteler—October 20  
Commander, Seventh District

To arrange for delivery of documents, schedule the requested interviews, or to ask any related follow up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Additionally, House Rule X additionally grants the Committee explicit legislative jurisdiction of the “[m]unicipal affairs of the District of Columbia in general.” Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Chief Pamela A. Smith  
August 25, 2025  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the end.

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James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform