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LISA M. RIHA
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Baltimore City FOP Lodge #3 has been working diligently to compile an After Action Report in order to provide a complete and accurate representation of the full details of all events surrounding the April/May riots in Baltimore. This report is intended to provide the information necessary for an appropriate response should another unfortunate incident such as this civil unrest happen again. From the beginning we have stated that it is the responsibility of the BPD and/or City Hall to conduct such a review; however, as none appears to be forthcoming, it is incumbent upon the union to take this unprecedented action in the interest of officer safety.

A very crucial piece of information required for the report is all written correspondence and radio transmissions between City Hall and the Baltimore Police Department during the riots. We have also requested answers to several questions regarding the authority of the Department's legal advisors when giving advice on criminal matters during the unrest, as well as the exact number of officers who have been placed on Medical Leave as the result of riot-related injuries. For more than a month, we have repeatedly requested that this information be provided to no avail. The fact that we have not been supplied the appropriate information shows obvious inaction or, quite possibly, an intentional stall tactic on the part of both the BPD and City Hall.

If the BPD has reviewed the tapes internally, which we hope and expect they have, they should easily be able to provide us with those recordings. By refusing to immediately release the radio transmissions and other command communications made during the riots, Commissioner Batts has missed an opportunity to regain the trust of the City as well as the rank and file police officers. The bottom line is simply that our leadership – Commissioner Batts and State's Attorney Mosby - has done nothing since the riots to investigate protocol shortcomings and better prepare our officers. This is obviously a concern to my members, but should also greatly concern the citizens of Baltimore City. The conditions that led to the riot are still present and any incident can serve, once again, as a flash point.

We are moving forward with the After Action Report without the tapes. Instead, we will be using information gathered from surveys, focus groups, and sworn statements from our membership, as well as official Police Reports and officers' notes - all firsthand accounts of what was experienced while on the front lines.

Lt. Gene Ryan, President
FOP Lodge #3