

POLICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C., February 13, 1968.

Hon. Mayor Commissioner WALTER E. WASHINGTON,
District Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: On behalf of the Policemen's Association of the District of Columbia, Inc., we hereby request that a meeting be arranged as soon as possible between you, Deputy Mayor Fletcher and representatives of our Association, to discuss the problems of the force, including the procedures, morale and other related matters that have arisen in the last several months.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the feeling of the men as indicated by a recent survey of the men by this Association, which has been given to the press.

Respectfully,

CARL W. BEATTY, *President.*

[News release for immediate release, Feb. 13, 1968]

STATEMENT OF CARL W. BEATTY, PRESIDENT OF THE POLICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, INC., AFTER A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD THIS MORNING

(This statement, together with the accompanying letter, was delivered to the Mayor this afternoon)

STATEMENT

The appointment of Patrick V. Murphy as Director of Public Safety of the District of Columbia was greeted by members of the Policemen's Association with optimism. There was hope that he would aid and direct the Police Department toward the attainment of higher salaries and the acquisition of better equipment, the betterment of relations between the public and the police, and that he would be the voice of the Department at the District Building and on Capitol Hill. After a meeting with the Mayor and Mr. Murphy in which the Mayor praised the Department, told that he would support it, and that each officer should walk with pride and dignity, the morale of the Department was at a high.

Recent developments have caused this morale to fall to an all-time low. It was the understanding of the Association, clarified by Mayor Washington at the meeting with the members of the Association, that Mr. Murphy would concern himself only with policy decisions of the Department, but Mr. Murphy, on the contrary, has attempted to reorganize and run the Department. He arrived here with little or no knowledge of the operation of the Department, of those standard operating procedures which have been in effect for many years. Mr. Murphy has not attempted to follow these procedures but has substituted his own.

This Association has no objection to the institution of new methods, but the present effect of Mr. Murphy's actions has been to eliminate all the effective procedures. Where once there was a well-ordered chain of command through which each problem of the force was directed, well known to every officer of the force, Mr. Murphy has circumvented it by taking it upon himself to decide the issues. It is our understanding that Mr. Murphy's position is one of policy-making and not one of deciding every case of every delinquent police officer.

The Association concurs in the appointment of Deputy Chief Wilson, since he is well-qualified and a credit to the Department. According to Mr. Murphy, Deputy Chief Wilson has been placed in charge of field operations. Mr. Murphy initially indicated that Deputy Chief Wilson would be responsible for most of the daily operations of the Department. The officers of the Department were confused as to whether Wilson had supplanted Chief Layton. Subsequently, Mr. Murphy issued a statement reiterating Layton's dominant position with the force. The men of the Department have great confidence in Chief Layton, and he has the respect of all the men. Frankly, the men are distrustful of the present state of affairs; they have heard words that Chief Layton has complete command, but no actions have yet shown that to be the case.

Furthermore, Mr. Murphy has failed to engender the confidence of the men by criticizing the Department at every opportunity. He has used the press to put forth his side of every story, and has thereby eliminated any opportunity to the opposing side to present its case, leaving that party at a strict disadvantage. As a spokesman for the Department, Mr. Murphy should not publicly ostracize the members of the Department. The cleaning of the house, if such is necessary, should take place within the confines of the Department until the appropriate