

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Statement from Senators Lawson, Richardson, and Wilson**

*The following statement was released by Senators Dave Lawson (15th District), Bryant Richardson (21st District) and Dave Wilson (18th District) following the recent acts of violence against police in Delaware.*

“This morning, Delaware awoke to reports of more violence against law enforcement as three Wilmington police officers were shot last night while responding to a call on North Market Street. As of this writing, the officers are thankfully in stable condition. This incident occurred just over a month after Delmar officer Corporal Keith Heacock was brutally murdered while also responding to a report of a domestic incident.

“Instead of addressing the issue of violence in our communities, particularly against our wonderful men and women in law enforcement, progressive activist groups and many elected Democrats are focused on tarnishing the reputation of police officers and sewing seeds of mistrust. The rhetoric used to describe the police’s role in the community is not only misguided, but reckless and correlates with the rise in violence against law enforcement personnel.

“During this time of heightened attacks on police, legislation such as Senate Bills 147 (SB147) and 148 (SB148) were introduced. Neither of these were included in the Law Enforcement Accountability Task Force’s final recommendations issued in May.

“SB147 changes Delaware’s justification law, with the synopsis saying, ‘This Act makes it clear that the determination of one’s state of mind is an objective standard —that is, what a reasonable person would have believed, rather than what the defendant believed.’

“SB148 expands the Division of Civil Rights and Public Trust’s responsibility to review cases that involve serious injury. Additionally, the bill requires a report by the Division to include the race of the law enforcement officer who used force, the race of the individual on whom force was used, and whether or not race was a factor in the decision to use force.

“These proposed measures are not only unnecessary, but extremely concerning. Instead of promoting narratives resulting in cops being shot, we should be exclaiming our support for law enforcement and thanking them for risking their lives day in and day out.

“We can begin the reduction of violence by not releasing hardened criminals shortly after they’re arrested. Time and time again, we see suspects released from custody with little or no bond, only to commit a worse crime and be arrested again. In these cases, it appears the Attorney General has opted to align herself with suspected criminals rather than the victims and/or law enforcement.

“It’s time we focus on the real issue of violence throughout Delaware rather than the lie of pervasive abuse by police.”

As of the writing of this statement, the incident involving the shooting of three Wilmington police officers was an ongoing investigation. Reports from various media outlets indicate the officers are in stable condition.

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