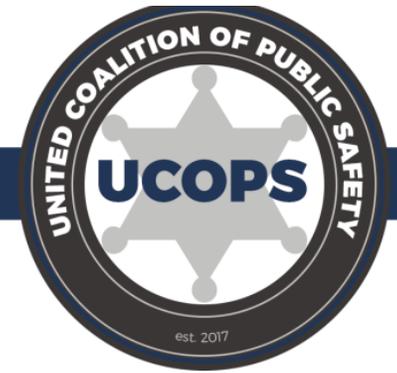


Building Relationships To Keep Our Communities Safe



April 26, 2018

The Honorable Charlie Baker, Governor
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

On behalf of law enforcement groups across the county and the United Coalition of Public Safety (UCOPS), a national alliance of police organizations, we are writing to extend our deepest sympathy to the people of Massachusetts, and especially our law enforcement brothers and sisters, for the tragic murder of Yarmouth Police Officer Sean Gannon. We know you share the horror and sadness that police officers in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation feel about the killing of this exemplary officer.

But expressions of grief are not enough. This tragedy compels us to examine how this could happen and how to prevent it from happening again. It has exposed serious flaws in a judicial system that allowed a repeat violent criminal to remain on the street, posing a serious threat to both law enforcement and citizens. With more than 100 prior convictions, including gun charges and a history of violence, Officer Gannon's killer, Tom Latanowich, demonstrates that even the most serious and obvious threats to public safety are too often allowed to walk free.

Clearly, changes need to be made in a system that required police officers to be put in harm's way once again in order to arrest a career criminal who should have been behind bars. Police officers had done their jobs to arrest him – repeatedly – only to have to face him again because he was allowed out of jail. The court system clearly failed and must be held accountable.

Consequently, we urge you to take the lead and convene interested parties – including legislators, judicial officials, and law enforcement – to consider what changes in laws and court procedures must be made to ensure that dangerous criminals are kept off the street. Massachusetts must act without delay to fix a judicial system that allowed this to happen.

The murder of Officer Gannon reminds us of how dangerous police work is. Police officers nationwide put their lives on the line every day to protect our fellow citizens. We simply cannot allow flaws in our judicial system to make their work even more dangerous.

We hope the Commonwealth will address the concerns of police officers. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and Massachusetts police organizations to enact meaningful solutions to this serious problem. UCOPS will also be working with other states to ensure that they do not suffer from similar tragedies due to flaws in their judicial systems.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

The United Coalition of Public Safety Executive Board, Members, and Law Enforcement Organizations



Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, ALADS



Las Vegas Police Protective League, LVPPA



Long Beach Police Association, LBOA



Los Angeles Police Protective League, LAPPL



Sergeants Benevolent Association, NYPD SBA



Oakland Police Officers Association, OPOA



Omaha Police Officers Association, OPOA



Portland Police Association, PPA



Sacramento Police Officers Association, SPOA



San Diego Police Officers Association, SDPOA



San Francisco Police Officers Association, SFPOA



San Jose Police Officers Association, SJPOA



Seattle Police Officers Guild, SPOG



State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers, SHOPO



Boston Police Patrolmen Association, BPPA



Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs, AOCDS