

AN AMENDMENT

#4

Date: June 9, 2020

Amendment offered by: Councilmember David Grosso

To: Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2020

Version:

Introduced	_____
Committee Print	_____
First Reading	_____ X _____
Amended First Reading	_____
Engrossed	_____
Enrolled	_____
Unidentified	_____

Amendment:

A new subtitle is added to read as follows:

SUBTITLE __. LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF SWORN OFFICERS

Sec. 113. Section 3 of An Act relating to the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia, approved February 28, 1901 (31 Stat. 819; D.C. Official Code 5-105.05), is amended as follows:

(a) Designate the existing text as subsection (a).

(b) The newly designated subsection (a) is amended as follow:

(1) Strike the phrase “less than 3,000 officers and members” and insert the phrase “more than 3,500 officers and members” in its place.

(2) Strike the phrase “and in addition to any retired officer” and insert the phrase “but including any retired officer” in its place.

(c) A new subsection (b) is added to read as follows:

“(b) If, as of the effective date of the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, passed on emergency basis on June 9, 2020 (Bill 23-___), the number of sworn officers exceeds 3,500, the Metropolitan Police Department shall institute a hiring freeze.”.

Rationale:

The goal of this amendment is to limit the number of sworn officers at MPD to 3,500. If MPD has more than 3,500 sworn officers, the agency must institute a hiring freeze and any officer who separates from MPD thereafter will not be replaced.

As of 2019, the MPD had 3,863 sworn officers. D.C. has the highest number of police officers per capita of any city in the country, but that high number of sworn officers has not correlated to any reduction in violent crime. D.C. has approximately 55 officers per 10,000 residents, double the national average and well above other cities of its size and large. Chicago, for example, has 43 officers per 10,000 residents. With 3,500 officers, D.C. would still have 50 officers per 10,000 residents, highest among cities of its size and larger.

After the police responded with violence to protests against police violence in D.C. and around the country, the community is calling for a reduction in the budget of MPD. While that is only possible during the budget process, work to reduce the size of the force can start made now. In the budget process the Council should require that vacancy savings be transferred to human services and violence interruption.