



Don Owens Memorial Lodge 88, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE **8/14/2020**

Re: City of Bloomington Organizational Study of Bloomington Police Dept. Staffing Levels

In late 2019, the Bloomington City Council asked for an organizational assessment to be completed; looking at the staffing levels at the Bloomington Police Department, in response to concerns raised by the F.O.P. during the most recent contract negotiations.

As the FOP predicted, in every scenario compared by the study group, the Bloomington Police Department is under-staffed. The Novak Consulting Group found that operating under the current shift structure, the BPD is 16 sworn positions short, based on call volume and local statistics. This third party, independent group, found that in order to be adequately staffed, BPD should have 121 sworn officers.

Recently, Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton announced a plan to reduce sworn police positions at the BPD, from 105 to 100, and to add five civilian positions. The BPD currently has only 95 sworn officers and struggles to fill open positions due to the non-competitive salary and benefits package offered by the City in the most recent contract negotiations. Bloomington is the 7th largest city in Indiana, but ranks 64th in pay for 2020.

The F.O.P. has no opposition to the addition of civilian positions (Social Workers and Neighborhood Resource Specialists), and think that the BPD's recent addition of those programs is commendable and could become a model for other agencies to consider. However, the F.O.P. is vehemently opposed to any reduction in sworn officer positions.

Today, the City released a statement about this organizational assessment, which glossed over the most important features of the report – namely, that the agency is under-staffed overall. This report directly conflicts the Mayor's stated plan to 'defund' the Department in the upcoming budget hearings. The City pointed to increasing the shift hours BPD officers work, as a possible solution to the existing manpower shortage.

"We see no need to increase the working hours for Bloomington Police Officers at this time, when the Mayor's goal is to reduce the number of officers overall" said F.O.P. Lodge 88 President Paul Post.

Please contact FOP President Paul Post at by email at paulpost@fop88.org for additional information.