



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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## **FOP Slams Ruling Denying DOJ Request on Baltimore Decree** *Denies Department Opportunity to Review Proposed Consent Decree*

Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, blasted the decision of U.S. District Judge James K. Bredar to block the request of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to delay for 90 days the implementation of a proposed consent decree on the Baltimore Police Department (BPD).

“The Justice Department made a perfectly reasonable request of the court,” Canterbury said. “It merely asked for time to review a proposal crafted under the previous Administration. The decision in this matter was irresponsible and wrong.”

The decision means that the consent decree process will begin right away, without any opportunity by the Civil Rights Division within the Justice Department to review and improve the existing proposal. This Administration, which set out its law enforcement and public safety priorities in a series of Executive Orders issued earlier this year, is committed to improving policing in Baltimore and around the nation. It makes little sense to deny the Department an opportunity to review the proposal with these priorities in mind.

“According to our local lodge, the consent decree will unnecessarily limit the ability of the BPD to enforce the law and reduce crime in the city of Baltimore, which is in the midst of a historic spike in crime,” Canterbury said. “This is at variance with the aforementioned Executive Orders and simple common sense.”

“Adding insult to injury, the decision dismissed the request because it said it would ‘unduly burden and inconvenience the court,’” Canterbury said. “I think restoring the trust of the public in its police and protecting the safety of Baltimore is worth a little inconvenience to the court and I believe the public we protect would agree.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States with more than 330,000 members.

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