

Minneapolis Police union President Lt. Bob Kroll in a letter to his membership:

Fellow members,

I write this on behalf of myself and your Federation board. First of all you have yet to be commended for the outstanding work that you have done this past five days. No one with the exception of us is willing to recognize and acknowledge the extreme bravery you have displayed through this riot. You have my utmost respect. Although I have not been visibly present, I am closely monitoring what is occurring. I commend you for the excellent police work you are doing in keeping your coworkers and others safe during what everyone except us refuses to call a riot. You've turned the tide of the largest scale riot that Minneapolis has ever seen.

What has been very evident throughout this process is you have lacked support from the top. This terrorist movement that is currently occurring was a long time build up which dates back years. Starting with minimizing the size of our police force and diverting funds to community activists with an anti-police agenda. Our chief requested 400 more officers and was flatly denied any. This is what led to this record breaking riot.

Wednesday evening I spoke with the assistant chief when the siege began on third precinct. He informed me that National Guard troops and mutual aid had been enacted. What was held back was the National Guard to deploy until 0001 hrs. Friday morning. What was also held back with the ability for our officers to use gas munitions and less lethal mutations to defend themselves. Given the right numbers, the right equipment, and your ability to use them would have ended this Tuesday night. I know this because I've been in charge of three separate riot situations when the police on the ground had the ability to make the tactical decisions to effectively end the situation. This has been stripped. The politicians are to blame and you are the scapegoats.

I've noted in press conferences from our mayor, our governor, and beyond, how they refuse to acknowledge the work of MPD and continually shift blame to it. It is despicable behavior. How our command staff can tolerate it and live with themselves I do not know.

When the critical incident took place, the Federation released a brief statement. It was clear, concise, and covered all angles. I will attach that to this email. Part of the reason myself and your board have been absent is like you we have simply been overworked and overwhelmed. I've had numerous conversations with politicians at the state level. I gave a detailed plan of action including a range of 2000 to 3000 National Guard, their deployment allocations throughout our city and St. Paul, in a

phone meeting with Senate majority leader Paul Gazelka. The Senate was going to try and run the actions that the governor displayed he is clearly incompetent to do. I've worked with other police leaders from New York to Las Vegas to push our messaging on a national level. What is not being told is the violent criminal history of George Floyd. The media will not air this. I've worked with the four defense attorneys that are representing each of our four terminated individuals under criminal investigation, in addition with our labor attorneys to fight for their jobs. They were terminated without due process.

Another large reason we have not been more vocal beyond our initial press release is the negative impact and safety implications it would have for you trying to do your work. I've been a visible target from the groups conducting this riot, politicians on the left allowing it and encouraging it, and liberal media. My visibility during this time would only increase your danger. I've received countless death threats throughout this.

Your Federation board will not remain silent. It's important for us to get order restored and safety resumed. We do have a lot to say about failed leadership when the time is right. We've been formulating plans for that. In addition, last night at 03:00 we had another critical incident. Two officers fired upon a vehicle that was accelerating at our officers. This too is being handled.

In closing I want you to know that your board is working hard on your behalf. We see the heroic work being done. We acknowledge it and commend you for it. Please take care of one another and stay as safe as possible.

Thank you,

Lt. Bob Kroll
President, POFM