



## United States Capitol Police Labor Committee

1320 G Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003  
Telephone: 202.544.4813 Fax: 202.544.5918  
[www.laborcops.com](http://www.laborcops.com)



Acting Chief of Police McGaffin  
U.S. Capitol Police  
119 D Street, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chief McGaffin:

It has been reported to me that at approximately 0245 hrs. on today's date, a vehicle almost hit USCP cruiser Unit 123, operated by U.S. Capitol Police Officer Pittman, who swerved to avoid the collision.

Officer Pittman turned his vehicle around, activated his emergency equipment and attempted to pull the vehicle over. The vehicle had not stopped after the near collision. Officer Pittman called over the radio that he was in pursuit of a vehicle that had almost hit him. The vehicle's running lights were not illuminated. It had hit the curb subsequent to the near collision.

Seconds later the vehicle hit the barricade at 1st and C Street, SE. The driver exited the vehicle and he was observed to be staggering. Officers Roberts, from Patrol Division and Officer Martin, from the House Division, had arrived to back up Officer Pittman. As they approached him, the driver declared to them that he was a Congressman and was late to a vote. The House had adjourned nearly three hours before this incident. It was Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy from Rhode Island.

Sgts Charlie Blancato and Kevin Gildea (from the House Division) responded and after they conferred with the Watch Commander, Lt. Wall, the sergeants ordered all of the Patrol Division Units to leave the scene and that they were taking over. Patrol division officers on the scene who are trained in Driving Under the Influence cases were not allowed to perform even basic Field Sobriety Tests.

I have been advised that subsequent to the departure of Officer Pittman and the other officers on the scene, House Division officials gave Congressman Kennedy a ride home. I believe that Crime Scene Search did respond and take photos.

If the events unfolded as they have been reported to me, and I believe they did, a complete and immediate investigation into them is required. Why were Officer Pittman and the other responsible officers on the scene prevented from completing the appropriate investigation into violations of law they witnessed. This appears to be interference with their duties as U.S. Capitol Police Officers and may have prevented the collection of evidence of such violations.

My members were attempting to carry out their duties with the professionalism and objectivity their oaths require. They should have been assisted in those duties by every level of supervision and command. Instead these circumstances call the integrity of our organization into question by creating the appearance of special favor for someone who is perceived to be privileged and powerful.

I urge you to take every necessary step to investigate the actions of the supervisors involved in this incident.

Further you should ensure that Officer Pittman is assisted and encouraged in completing his investigation and issuing any citations that may be supported by his conclusions. I believe, that to do less will demean our agency and diminish confidence in our ability to enforce the law without fear or favor.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory H Baird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being the most prominent part.

Gregory H Baird,  
Acting Chairman