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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DEPUTY CHIEFS RESPONSE TO IUPA LETTER**

Chief Murphy Paul is aware that a letter from Sam Cabral of the International Union of Police Association, has been recently circulated.

The letter mentioned crime, staffing, communication and discipline. However, the information noted by the author did not accurately represent the efforts that have and are currently being taken within the Baton Rouge Police Department.

Local, State and Federal partnerships, such as Operation Red Stick, are ongoing and have shown an impact in the area of addressing violent crime in the Baton Rouge community.

In a time where workforce staffing has proven to be a challenge throughout the country in numerous professions, law enforcement has not been exempt from the problem. However, the Baton Rouge Police Department, has been able to effectively recruit even during this hiring crisis. As a matter of fact, we are scheduled to graduate 20 new police officers from our Basic Training Academy next week (Monday, May 9, 2022). We have also hired approximately 15 cadets for the 89<sup>th</sup> Basic Training Academy and have an additional 20 candidates to interview for that class, which is slated to start next month on June 20, 2022. This does not include the nine law enforcement officers from other agencies seeking lateral transfers to join BRPD. If anyone is interested in being considered for employment, they still have a few more weeks to submit an application before the deadline.

Communication has always been a priority since Chief Paul was appointed to represent the agency. Throughout his tenure, repeated roll call visits, virtual town hall meetings, news letters and emails have been a frequent practice to converse with the men and women of this agency. Ideas presented to the staff from the boots on the ground have led to several documented changes within the department. We cherish the input of all and have established quarterly strategic planning retreats. These retreats ensure representation from all levels, to include gender, race, seniority, different divisions, civilian employees, etc.

As far as discipline, the Chief of Police has a well-documented history of fair and impartial accountability. The department has been very transparent during his term, having released data on multiple occasions outlining the discipline issued by Chief Paul.

We will not allow misinformation to divide those in our agency and community, nor will we

allow it to take away from the great work, effort and sacrifices made by members of the Baton Rouge Police Department. We take great pride in not only the bridges we have built within the community, but we also have established a positive working relationship with the new leadership of the Local 237 Baton Rouge Union of Police. As they were shocked to hear of the letter issued by the IUPA president, so are we.

From day one, Chief Paul has been a focused and committed leader and that will not change. He will continue to lead the Baton Rouge Police Department and to serve with the members of our community to prevent crime and to promote the safety and well-being of all.