

March 23, 2010

Testimony of Keith Pugh

I've been a security officer for 10 years. I am currently working as an armed security officer at a police impound site. If you are a security officer, carrying a weapon on your hip, you deserve the same respect that the police and protective services receive. We are the first line of defense at DC government buildings and schools.

I worked for Unlimited while they had the contract with DC. In February of 2005, that company went bankrupt. A lot of people struggled to keep their cars and their homes. It took us years to finally get paid.

Now we are going through the same thing with Hawk One. When Hawk One folded, I was left without two weeks of pay, equaling about \$1900. Because I wasn't paid I couldn't keep up with my bills. I am a single parent raising two boys. It's not easy, and when you work hard and aren't paid it makes it harder. Because Hawk One didn't pay me, I lost my apartment and had to move with my boys into my sister's house.

US Security is starting just like Hawk One, and maybe even worse. We are not receiving sick leave, we have to work two years and two months to get one week of vacation, and we are not being paid for lunch breaks. When US Security took over for Hawk One, every officer had to start from scratch, and seniority has not been honored.

The city has left us down for years. We all have a job to do, and we expect to be treated fairly. I ask that you pass a law that would prevent workers from being left out in the cold again, and stop to look at companies to see what they are doing wrong before it's too late.

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