

Hello, my name is Carl Bailey, I am currently the principal officer of Teamsters Local No. 205. While most people may not think police officer when they hear Teamsters, I can assure you that my local extensively represents police officers. Teamsters has a law enforcement league. In fact, currently, Local 205 represents the officers in 53 police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We represent officers from Greene County to Clearfield County and everywhere in between. Before becoming a business agent with Teamsters Local 205, I was police officer in the City of McKeesport for fifteen years. As a result, I am extremely familiar with the issues facing police officers today. I want you to know that it is an honor to speak on behalf of these brave individuals and I thank you for the opportunity to make a statement regarding the very important issue of wages for part time police officers.

As you are aware, police work is an ever increasingly dangerous job and those who would do harm to officers do not distinguish between part time and full time officers. Put in stats. In April 2011, part-time Clairton officer James Kuzak Jr., 42, was shot five times while responding to a home invasion, paralyzing him from the waist down. In December 2011, part-time East Washington officer John David Dryer, 46, of Claysville was fatally shot during a traffic stop on Interstate 70. In December 2014, part-time Perryopolis police officer Richard Champion, 35, of Ligonier was killed in a two-vehicle crash on Route 51 in Perry.

Unfortunately, despite the inherent danger/risk of life to these public servants, the wages paid are often less than those working in fast food restaurants and public-sector jobs including secretaries and postal service workers. Moreover, unlike many government positions, these officers do not receive a benefits package to help offset low wages.

Not only do these officers regularly face safety risks, unlike many people paid more than them, they must go through extensive training in order to be certified as police officers in Pennsylvania. Included in this training are 6 months of ACT 120 training, 16 hours of annual updates, firearms training, and 1st aid and CPR certification.

In addition, these officers are often forced to work with 3 or even 4 municipalities to make sufficient income to survive. As a result, they are often working multiple shifts in a row and working widely varying shifts. These exhausting working conditions result in many health risks including high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, obesity, and higher automobile accidents. Moreover, such a schedule places the public at risk because tired officers must take to the streets where they must make split second life and death decisions while carrying a firearm. According to research by Dr. Bryan Vila, a leading sleep research expert on the effects of officer fatigue, sleep deprivation contributes to officers' irritability with the public and inability to maintain calm in situations due to diminishing attentiveness; it also impairs physical and cognitive abilities. A study conducted by Senjo in 2011, found that sleep deprivation can have the same affects as being under the influence of alcohol or drugs and causes diminished capacity to reason and function.

In closing, in any other industry, workers are compensated well if the job is dangerous or if specialized training is required. While part-time officers meet both of these requirements, they are often paid less than some of the lowest paying jobs in our society.

While I think we can all agree that these officers deserve to be paid far more, given the financial condition of many of the municipalities hiring these officers, I believe that a mandatory minimum \$15.00 an hour wage for part-time officers will be a good step recognizing the danger inherent in the officer's jobs, the training required as well as improving the health of the officers and the safety of the public.