



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

October 24, 2011

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
135 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley,

I write in connection with the appointment of Michael E. Horowitz, candidate for the position of Inspector General ("IG") for the United States Department of Justice ("DOJ"). By way of introduction, I am the Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI") for the City of New York, having been appointed to that position by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2002. As DOI Commissioner, I am in essence the Inspector General for the City of New York. With approximately 400 employees, my Department serves as an external oversight agency with jurisdictional purview over New York City's 45 agencies, the 350,000 City employees, and all vendors doing business with the City. Prior to my appointment as DOI Commissioner, I was an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York ("SDNY") from 1991 through 2002, where I served as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division for the last four years of my service in that office.

I have known Michael Horowitz since 1991, which is when we both became Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the SDNY. Thus, both because I have worked with Michael and because I have some experience at what a sizeable IG position involves, I believe I can provide you with some insights about Michael's suitability for the job. I wholeheartedly recommend him for the position. I do not do so lightly because of my appreciation for the importance of the work of your Committee in selecting and screening candidates of excellence. Michael is such a candidate in my view, and I will provide you with my basis for that position.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Senator Charles E. Grassley

For almost then years, Michael was my colleague in the SDNY and I am able to report that he was very highly regarded by everyone at the U.S. Attorney's Office, the federal judges in our district, and defense attorneys who had cases with Michael. Those collective viewpoints speak to the professional manner in which Michael conducted himself with everyone. He is the consummate professional – a view universally held by people who know him and dealt with him. It was no surprise to people in the SDNY that he was promoted to the position of Deputy Assistant Attorney General for DOJ in Washington in 1999.

As to his substantive abilities, Michael has a keen intellect and was thorough and tenacious in the cases that he investigated/prosecuted, but he was also fair, reasonable and measured. Those are very important qualities for an IG in my experience. Michael has demonstrated his ability to handle sensitive matters of significance as Chief of the Public Corruption Unit in the SDNY. Michael investigated, supervised and tried public corruption cases involving city, state and federal subjects. Some of Michael's matters involved embezzlement where the city or federal government was a victim, others involved corruption, including by police officers. Michael did not shy away from any scenario. He went where the evidence led him. In my view that too is a quality that is desirable in serving the public as an IG.

Michael has worked with various Inspector Generals and Internal Affairs offices and so he understands the role. Indeed, Michael worked with my current department – DOI – on a case of significance. In all of his case work, Michael was effective, whether it was by weeding out corrupt officials or returning money to the City or federal government coffers stolen through fraudulent schemes.

If there is any further information that I can provide to your Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Rose Gill Hearn
Commissioner
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