



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

May 15, 2013

ANTHONY W. BATTS
Police Commissioner

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Tony West to the position of Associate Attorney General of the United States.

I serve as the Police Commissioner for the City of Baltimore and previously served as Chief of Police for the City of Long Beach and Oakland, California and I regard having a committed advocate for public safety in the Justice Department as critical to effectively serving my community and protecting public safety. I strongly believe that Mr. West is and has been such a leader for law enforcement and public safety across the country as Associate Attorney General of the United States. Indeed, Mr. West has demonstrated an abiding commitment to public safety and excellence in law enforcement throughout his career.

As a federal prosecutor, Mr. West worked with local police officers and federal agents, prosecuting drug traffickers and violent criminals. He also served as a Special Assistant Attorney General in California, assisting the state Attorney General in setting crime and law enforcement policy across California. In addition, during his tenure in the United States Department of Justice, Mr. West has continued his focus on public safety and law enforcement. He has worked to protect the safety and wellness of our nation's sworn peace officers through the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group. He has pursued companies for knowingly selling defective bulletproof vests that put the lives of our men and women in law enforcement at risk. As a federal Board Member of the First Responder Network Authority, he is working with state and local law enforcement leaders and communication innovators to establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network—a key innovation needed to protect public safety and the safety of our officers and first responders.

Page 2

Moreover, Mr. West has always made himself available to me and my staff for meetings and/or advice. He is kind, caring and insightful. When a high ranking governmental official rearranges his schedule to meet with a Chief of Police it speaks volumes. Mr. West clearly leads from the front in his actions and his words.

In sum, Mr. West shares the values of excellence and commitment to public safety that are fundamental to the profession of law enforcement. I have no doubt that, given his unquestioned skill as a prosecutor and his integrity as a leader, Mr. West will serve his country with distinction in this new position. It is my earnest hope that the Senate will confirm Mr. West promptly to serve as the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony W. Batts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" written in a large, stylized loop and the last name "Batts" written in a more straightforward cursive style.

Anthony W. Batts
Police Commissioner

AWB/dlr