



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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May 22, 2013

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

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

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the Mayor of Philadelphia and the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I serve as a voice for the people of Philadelphia and for Mayors representing over a thousand cities across the United States. President Barack Obama has made an excellent decision in choosing Tony West for the position of Associate Attorney General for the United States, and I write to express my strong support for his nomination.

America's cities need partners in the U.S. Department of Justice who are not only committed to public safety and crime prevention, but who value working closely with local leaders and law enforcement to advance solutions to the evolving nature of crime and violence that threatens our communities. As a senior official at the Department, Mr. West has been a galvanizing force behind critical programs to address one of the most pressing issues confronting, not just the City of Philadelphia but communities across the country—youth violence. For example, Mr. West prioritized the expansion of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, a successful model to increase awareness and build the capacity of local leaders to join forces in working together to more effectively address youth violence through comprehensive planning and collaborative action. The National Forum on Youth Violence is successfully working in Philadelphia and nine other major metropolitan areas.

As Acting Associate Attorney General, Mr. West has continued to invest well in programs to support local law enforcement in their efforts to carry out the heroic duties of keeping our cities, neighborhoods, and citizens safe. Mr. West has overseen the Community Oriented Policing Services, which distributes grants to law enforcement agencies to hire or rehire career officers to increase community policing capacity and

crime prevention efforts. Mr. West has promoted innovation with state and local law enforcement agencies by improving the safety and wellness of our nation's law enforcement personnel through research and initiatives such as the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group. Moreover, as a Federal Board Member of the First Responder Network Authority, Mr. West is working with state and local law enforcement leaders and communication innovators to establish a single nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network, which will enhance the capacity of our front-line officers to respond and recover in the event of emergency.

Mr. West has demonstrated a strong commitment to bridging the invisible, but at-times daunting gap, between the federal programs and the realities of local communities. He has demonstrated leadership, a commitment to public safety through partnership with local communities, and impeccable skill at furthering programs to meet the needs of our times. For those reasons, I 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 blue ink, appearing to read "M. A. Nutter", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Michael A. Nutter
Mayor of Philadelphia
President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors