



**NATIONAL
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

309 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY

of

Chuck Canterbury

National President,

Grand Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police

on

**the Nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr.
to be the 82nd Attorney General of the United States**

before the

Senate Committee on the Judiciary

15 January 2009

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Specter, and distinguished Members of the Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Chuck Canterbury, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police. I am the elected spokesperson of more than 327,000 rank-and-file police officers—the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr. to be the next Attorney General of the United States.

Following the news that President-elect Obama intended to tap Mr. Holder for this critical Cabinet post, the FOP undertook an exhaustive examination of Mr. Holder's record of public service, from his first twelve years in the U.S. Department of Justice in the Public Integrity Section to his role as Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General of the United States. This was a very thorough review on a scale that the FOP had not done in my memory. His positions, policy work, and official acts were consistent with the goals and objectives of the Fraternal Order of Police, and we have every reason to believe that he will be an exemplary U.S. Attorney General with whom we would have a productive partnership.

I believe that the FOP brings a unique perspective to this nomination hearing, not just because we are the only law enforcement organization that has been asked to appear, but also because of our familiarity with Mr. Holder's record in the courtroom, as a judge and as U.S. Attorney.

As part of our review process, we consulted with the leadership of the District of Columbia FOP Lodge about his tenure on the Superior Court and as U.S. Attorney. Our members reported that they found Judge Holder fair and tough, and spoke favorably of U.S. Attorney Holder, describing him as an able and aggressive prosecutor. From the perspective of line officers who worked with him on real cases, and from that of the leadership of the D.C. State Lodge and Labor Committees, the FOP has a better sense—a more complete picture—of Eric Holder in a law enforcement role than others who may only be familiar with his policy work as a Justice Department executive or as Deputy Attorney General.

I would add here that we consider the career employees of the Department of Justice to be the best of the best—and note that many of them are FOP members. They are very anxious to have this fine nominee—whom they consider as one of their own—to take his place at the helm of the Department.

The FOP was also privileged to have the opportunity to discuss personally with Mr. Holder a number of different issues, including his vision for the Department of Justice in the new Administration. Mr. Holder stated that the FOP will remain engaged and involved in the full spectrum of public safety issues and will be consulted during the formulation of our nation's crime-fighting strategies and policies.

I believe that the President-elect has made a great choice in Eric H. Holder, Jr. to be the next Attorney General of the United States. I also want to emphasize that, in addition to the FOP, all major, mainstream law enforcement organizations have announced their support for Mr. Holder's nomination. I urge the Committee to complete their own review of this nominee in an expeditious fashion and to favorably report it to the Senate floor. I think if politics are put aside when examining Mr. Holder's record, you will find him not only well-qualified, but also possessed of the requisite character, knowledge, and experience to be an effective leader of the Department and our nation's top law enforcement officer.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the invitation to appear today, and to all the Members of the Committee for their kind attention. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.