

May 21, 2013

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:

After more than three decades in law enforcement, including nearly four years as the director of the Justice Department's Office of Community Policing Services, or COPS Office, I have served alongside Tony West, in service of law enforcement officials across the United States. Today I write to express my strong support for the nomination of Tony West to the position of Associate Attorney General of the United States.

During my tenure as the Police Chief of Pasadena, I saw Mr. West work with local police officers and federal agents to prosecute drug traffickers and violent criminals. I also witnessed his success in assisting the state Attorney General with developing and implementing criminal justice and law enforcement policy across California – West helped make California safer. Through his work as an assistant U.S. Attorney, a special assistant U.S. Attorney for the State of California, and a senior official in the Justice Department, Mr. West's anti-crime efforts have earned him strong partnerships at all levels of law enforcement. Mr. West's demonstrated commitment to public safety as well as his effective collaboration with, and support for, front-line law enforcement has garnered him the endorsement of the California Police Chiefs' Association, an association of over 400 active and retired municipal California Police Chiefs, where I previously served as President.

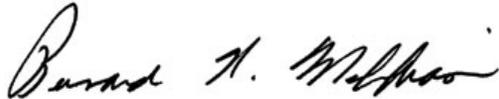
As the Director of the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office, I had the pleasure of working directly with Acting Associate Attorney General West and observing his commitment to effective community policing through community partnership with law enforcement. Under Mr. West's leadership, the COPS Office made enormous progress in efforts to combat crime by providing technical assistance, training, and equipping law enforcement with the innovative strategies, applied research, and tools to resolve community problems, ensure fairness, inspire public confidence, and contribute to mutual trust and respect between police and citizens. For example, Acting Associate Attorney General West prioritized development of the Collaborative Reform Project, a groundbreaking piece of work intended to help the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police

Department to reduce the number of officer-involved shootings and to improve the quality of the investigations. This work provides an entirely new method by which the Justice Department can assist local law enforcement.

Mr. West encouraged the COPS Office to pursue strategies to enhance the safety of neighborhoods across the country while enabling officers to navigate complex challenges of the communities that employ them. As Acting Associate Attorney General, Mr. West has effectively overseen the administration of grants that are essential to the funding of critical work on emerging topics in the field, such as homicide reduction training, cybercrimes, and school resource officer training, as well as the distribution of more than \$100 million through the COPS Hiring Program to law enforcement agencies to hire or rehire career officers to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention.

Mr. West's extensive legal and leadership experience coordinating with various law enforcement organizations – both inside and outside the Department – are essential for this vital position. 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 cursive script, reading "Bernard K. Melekian". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bernard K. Melekian