MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

February 3, 2021

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The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein,

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada, is proud to endorse President Biden's nominations of Lisa Monaco to serve as Deputy Attorney General, Vanita Gupta to serve as Associate Attorney General, and Kristen Clarke to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has been tasked with addressing a complex set of issues, including police reform, criminal justice reform, violent crime, and domestic extremism. The team President Biden has nominated is immensely qualified for this responsibility. The nominees have decades of experience serving in senior leadership roles within DOJ, other elements of the justice system, the private sector, civil rights and civil liberties organizations, and other key stakeholder groups. This experience will be invaluable as they work to tackle the many challenges facing DOJ.

In conversations with MCCA leadership, the nominees listened intently to our concerns and expressed a desire to collaborate closely with the MCCA. They indicated that open lines of communication and MCCA input are critical in addressing shared priorities such as advancing constitutional policing, improving officer health and wellness, and combatting the rise in violent crime currently occurring across the country.

President Biden's DOJ nominees also made it clear that they neither support defunding the police nor believe that doing so will bring about the change our communities are calling for. They pledged to work closely with the MCCA to support and amplify the efforts already underway by many local law enforcement agencies to develop and implement policies and practices that are fair, equitable, transparent, and build trust and legitimacy with all members of the community.

The MCCA believes these nominees will be effective leaders and valuable partners for local law enforcement agencies. On behalf of the MCCA membership, I respectfully

request the Committee act swiftly and support the nominations of Ms. Monaco, Ms. Gupta, and Ms. Clarke.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
Chief, Houston Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association