

Harold E. Medlock
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February 26, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Vanita Gupta, nominee for United States Associate Attorney General

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing this letter in support of Vanita Gupta, the President's nominee to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice. I am the retired police chief of Fayetteville, North Carolina and have served 29 years alongside the men and women in blue, with the sole mission of protecting and serving the communities that I live in and love. Throughout those years, I have tried to live, work, and lead honorably, upholding the profession while also seeking to protect the vulnerable and provide aid to those in harm's way.

I know Ms. Gupta well. She herself is no stranger to police issues, having cut her teeth working on a police misconduct case as a young lawyer in Texas, and later leading the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she undertook investigations of Ferguson, Cleveland, Baltimore, and Chicago police departments to ensure there was constitutional policing in those departments.

Ms. Gupta has demonstrated a seriousness and willingness to understand the intense challenges, and even dangers, facing police officers with the intent of improving policing at large without degrading the overwhelming number of brave and honorable police officers. In this way, Ms. Gupta has always shown herself to be a strategic problem solver, who is animated by a desire to build greater trust in our communities and make things better. It is this solutions-oriented approach that I believe will serve Ms. Gupta extraordinarily well as the Associate Attorney General.

Indeed, several important police-related Justice Department components reside in the portfolio of the Associate Attorney General. In addition to the Civil Rights Division, Ms. Gupta will oversee several components within the U.S. Department of Justice that directly assist local law enforcement organizations to effectively work with crime victims and community leaders. These important components include: The Office of Justice Programs section, the Office of Violence Against Women, the Community Relations Service, and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office. We believe local law enforcement always does well when there is a healthy partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice. And we are confident that under Ms. Gupta's leadership, the Justice Department will be a valuable partner to law enforcement organizations all throughout the country. This is particularly important today, while we are in a moment in history where community members are demanding greater accountability and greater trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Ms. Gupta is the right leader at this time to become the Associate Attorney General. I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to quickly process Ms. Gupta's nomination, and I similarly urge the Senate to quickly confirm her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harold E. Medlock", written in a cursive style.

Harold E. Medlock
Chief of Police (retired)
Fayetteville Police Department
Fayetteville, North Carolina