



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

December 11, 2008

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

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

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) representing more than 241,000 law enforcement officers throughout the United States, I am writing to advise you of our endorsement of the nomination of Eric Holder for Attorney General of the United States. As the top law enforcement official in the nation, the Attorney General sets the policies for how the federal government relates to and works with state and local law enforcement. NAPO believes Mr. Holder has the experience and knowledge necessary to run the Department of Justice and create a comprehensive, multilateral national crime fighting strategy.

Mr. Holder started his career as a prosecutor before moving on to be a Superior Court judge and then U.S. attorney in Washington, D.C. While he was U.S. Attorney in D.C., he fought hard for mandatory minimum sentences and harsher punishments for drug offenses. The time he spent in D.C. also made Mr. Holder a champion of community policing. He recognized the importance of communities trusting their police and worked with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department to improve their standing within the community. Additionally, Mr. Holder took community policing to a new level in the District, assigning prosecutors to "beats" in order that they might better know the communities they served. He took his strong belief in the value of community policing with him when he was deputy U.S. attorney general, from 1997-2001. He was a key player in developing the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program established by the 1994 Crime Bill, which put over 100,000 cops on the street.

As Attorney General, we believe Mr. Holder will make the Justice Department more efficient and effective, particularly in regards to programs that aim to help states and localities fight crime. State and local law enforcement will once again be regarded as a vital part of the national crime-fighting strategy and will be provided the tools and resources necessary to protect our neighborhoods from crime. Therefore, we urge you to confirm the nomination of Eric Holder for Attorney General. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Governmental Affairs, Andrea Mournighan, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director