

23 July 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
211 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: **April Perry**, Nominee for US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

It is my honor to endorse, former Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA)/current GE HealthCare Senior Counsel April Perry for her nomination as a Federal Judge for the Northern District of Illinois' US District Court.

I served as a United States Marine Officer (1990-1998), including 3 years as an instructor in Economics, as well as in the Leadership and Ethics Departments at the US Naval Academy (1994-1997). In my 23 years at the FBI (1999-2022), I worked a myriad of public corruption (PC) and civil rights (CR) investigations, including the prosecutions of Governor George Ryan and Rod Blagojevich. Since retiring from the FBI, I have been serving as the Texas/Northwest Regions' Director of Corporate Physical Security for Charter Communications, covering an area of 11 states in managing the security, internal investigations, external threats, and active aggressor training and de-escalation program for over 24,000 employees.

While numerous cases were contentious and difficult, none was more challenging or explosive than the 10/20/2014 **Laquan McDonald Civil Rights-Color of Law Investigation** involving Chicago Police Dept (CPD) Officer Jason Van Dyke, when I was leading the FBI's PC/CR Task Force (2012-2016). In that 4yr period, I brought many CR matters to the United States Attorney's Office (USAO), and those that were most difficult, ended up directly on AUSA April Perry's doorstep. Before the Laquan McDonald Investigation, I worked and prosecuted two other difficult CR cases, where CPS Officers assaulted citizens being detained, one in handcuffs, who was kicked in the stomach while cuffed and laying on a convenient store floor by a veteran CPD officer. In both these cases, the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) failed to pursue charges, but Federal convictions were secured through the diligence, commitment, and prosecutory prowess of then AUSA April Perry.

AUSA Perry's commitment to justice for all is **absolute**; she will not yield to anyone, nor any institution, when the evidence supports prosecution. While some AUSAs may shy away from a difficult case that may not ensure a conviction, AUSA Perry was not afraid to take on the tough cases, defying the norm to track her conviction rate! In this sense, no case came with more challenges than the Laquan McDonald Investigation, where Laquan was

shot *16 times* by CPD Officer Van Dyke unjustifiably. AUSA Perry worked tirelessly with the FBI Task Force to ensure McDonald's murder was prosecuted by securing detailed evidence, locking in over 70 witnesses in the Grand Jury, to include multiple police officers and Van Dyke's own partner. AUSA Perry's joint efforts with the FBI's PC/CR Task Force exposed several procedural problems with how CPD's body cameras and vehicle recorders were being operated, maintained, and inspected BEFORE such equipment was utilized on the streets of Chicago, as well as exposed Use of Force Refreshers Training shortcomings within CPD after probationary periods were complete.

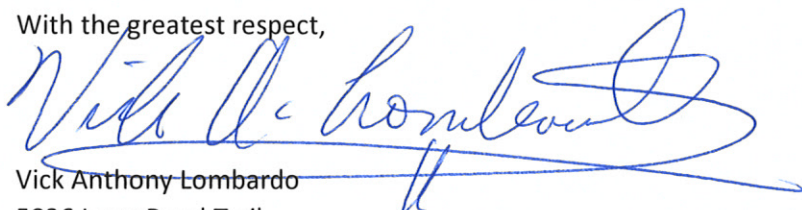
AUSA Perry's work was exhaustive, complete, organized, and well-documented, concurrent with being bold, brilliant, and transformative. This work, in combination with AUSA Perry's relentless and passionate pursuit for the victims' families made her an unstoppable force for good. Always.

In the end, when the decision was made to have the State prosecute the case first as a murder, prior to any Federal charges being pursued under the Color of Law Statutes. Instead of selfishly complaining that her case was "taken away," AUS Perry did all she could to provide all her and the FBI's PC/CR Task Force's exhaustive work to the Special Prosecutor, who secured a second-degree murder conviction of Officer Jason Van Dyke, just shy of four years after Laquan McDonald's death, on 10/05/2018.

April Perry is an incredible, fearless defender of justice, without prejudice. I deeply believe her commitment and passion for our country strengthens our democracy. I have no doubt, whatsoever, that she will only continue to positively impact the Judicial Branch of our government as a Federal Judge for the Northern District of Illinois' US District Court.

If you, any of your colleagues, or your staff have any questions, or would like additional information, I would be honored to talk with your further. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

With the greatest respect,



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