

May 23, 2022

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

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

224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Nusrat Choudhury to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Dear Chairman Durbin and Senator Grassley:

As a police officer of 27 years, chief of police, and avid supporter of the men and women who swear the oath to join our honorable profession, I thought long and hard about drafting this letter. I spent 25 years serving the residents of Milwaukee, WI, and now proudly lead the police department in the City of Thornton, CO, in the Denver metropolitan area.

Although I write in my personal capacity, my views are shaped by the experiences of my profession, which has often been at the center of unbalanced and one-sided national discourse. In that time, I have met people on every side of social, political, and cultural divides, and was able to find common ground with many of them, whether or not we shared the same perceptions or came to the same conclusions. Such was my experience with Nusrat Choudhury, whom I met in 2018 while helping to negotiate a settlement between the City of Milwaukee and plaintiffs represented by Ms. Choudhury and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

While my encounters with members of the local ACLU were often adversarial, resulting from what I believed to be a bias against policing, Ms. Choudhury's approach was markedly different. In leading the plaintiffs' team during negotiations, Ms. Choudhury's arguments seemed to be based on no agendas beyond interpretations of the law, the Constitution, and the reasonableness of implementing aspects of the proposed settlement. I am aware of former Milwaukee city attorneys that I know and respect who formed the same opinion of her during the months of intense negotiations.

While I had no knowledge of Ms. Choudhury prior to these negotiations, I find it hard to reconcile the measured and reasoned attorney that I met with the inaccurate and unsophisticated statement attributed to her. She has asserted that she did not say police officers kill unarmed black people every day. Taking her adamant denial into consideration, I support Ms. Choudhury's pending nomination before the Judiciary Committee and its advancement to the full Senate.

This correspondence is submitted to the honorable senators with all due respect for your service to our great nation, and with humble appreciation of your vocal and unwavering support of American policing.

With respect and sincere regards,

Terrence T. Gordon

Chief of Police

Thornton, CO

Assistant Chief of Police (ret.)

Milwaukee, WI