

April 9, 2021

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

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

Re: Letter in Support of Kristen Clarke, nominee for Assistant Attorney General of the  
Civil Rights Division

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

We write this letter in strong support of Kristen Clarke, the President's nominee to serve as  
Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division.

We have served as rank and file law enforcement officers, as administrators, and as Police Chiefs  
and Sheriffs in cities and counties throughout the country. We have the utmost respect and  
admiration for those law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day and act with courage  
and honor to keep our communities safe. Indeed, some of us have had to bury brave and  
honorable officers who died in the line of duty and console loved ones for their ultimate  
sacrifice, and we all remain deeply grateful to them. We are further immensely proud to be in the  
fraternity of law enforcement professionals who served our communities.

The past several years have shed light on just how important it is for law enforcement officers to  
develop trust within communities. Trust is integral to provide and promote public safety, seek  
justice for victims, and pursue accountability for those who commit crimes against the  
vulnerable. Hate crimes in particular have become far too commonplace in communities all over  
America.

While many issues contribute to the deterioration of trust between law enforcement and  
communities (such as unconstitutional policing and misconduct), there are also many solutions.  
Some of these solutions involve high-quality training and education, resources, and recruitment  
of individuals with high character. Additional solutions involve healthy and collaborative  
partnerships across the criminal justice landscape, including between and among federal, state,  
and local officials, and collaborative partnerships with victims advocates, social service  
professionals, and prosecutors and defense lawyers.

Kristen Clarke, the President's Civil Rights Division nominee, is someone who is undoubtedly a part of the solution. First and foremost, she is a listener. Throughout her career, first as a federal prosecutor prosecuting sensitive human trafficking cases, domestic violence cases, and litigating voting rights cases, she demonstrated an uncanny ability to work closely with federal and state and local law enforcement officials, and worked closely with domestic violence survivors and crime victims to ensure they obtained justice.

When Ms. Clarke later served as Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau in the New York Attorney General's office, she dove head first into working closely with state police and sheriffs to listen to their challenges, and devise best practices for working with communities with limited English proficiency. When Ms. Clarke left government service to lead the non-profit Lawyers' Committee of Civil Rights Under Law, she pioneered a program to work alongside the International Association of Chiefs of Police to help improve law enforcement responses to hate crimes and hate incidents.

Throughout her career, Ms. Clarke has built a national reputation as someone who is trustworthy and who fiercely defends and protects the most vulnerable crime victims in our communities. As a result, she is someone who will bring an enormous amount of credibility among community leaders to the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. This credibility will be of paramount importance as she does some of the important work of building relationships with law enforcement leaders and seeking accountability where needed. This will take sensitivity and skill, which Ms. Clarke has demonstrated in abundance throughout her impressive career.

We recognize that in this critical time, the Justice Department's mandate to promote equal justice under law requires leaders of impeccable credentials, character, and credibility. The Civil Rights Division, in particular, must be led by someone with such qualifications. We believe Kristen Clarke to be well-suited to take on this important role. And we urge the Senate to confirm her immediately.

Thank you for your consideration.

Truly Yours,

Charles Ramsey (Ret.)  
Commissioner (Fmr.), Philadelphia Police Department  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), D.C. Metropolitan Police Department  
Past President, Major Cities Chiefs Association  
Past President, Police Executive Research Forum  
Co-Chair, President Obama Task Force on 21st Century Policing

Jim Bueermann  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Redlands Police Department  
Past President, National Police Foundation

Edward Davis  
Police Commissioner (Fmr.), Boston Police Department

William Bratton  
Police Commissioner (Fmr.), New York Police Department

J. Scott Thomson  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Camden County New Jersey Police Department  
Past President, the Police Executive Research Forum

Ivonne Roman, PhD  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Newark Police Department

Terrance W. Gainer  
Sergeant at Arms (Fmr.), United States Senate  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), United States Capitol Police

Renee' Hall  
Chief of Police, Dallas Police Department

Charlie Beck  
Superintendent of Police, Chicago Police Department  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Los Angeles Police Department

Arif Alikhan  
Director of Constitutional Policing (Fmr.), Los Angeles Police Department

Chris Magnus  
Police Chief, Tucson Police Department 2016-present

Sonia Y. W. Pruitt  
Captain (Ret.), Montgomery County Police Department

George N. Turner  
Public Safety Commissioner (Fmr.), Atlanta Police Department  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Atlanta Police Department

Carmen Y. Best  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Seattle Police Department

Daniel J Oates  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Miami Beach Police Department  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Aurora Police Department  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Ann Arbor Police Department  
New York Police Department

Richard W. Stanek  
Sheriff, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Kim C. Dine (Ret.)  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), U.S. Capitol Police  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Frederick Police Department (MD)

Jerry Clayton  
Sheriff, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

Kathleen O'Toole (Ret.)  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Seattle Police Department  
Commissioner (Fmr.), Boston Police Department  
Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety (Fmr.)

Sue Rahr  
Sheriff (Fmr.), King County Sheriff's Office

Cassandra Deck-Brown  
Police Chief, Raleigh Police Department

Darrel W Stephens  
Executive Director (Fmr.), Major Cities Chiefs Association

Kim Jacobs  
Chief of Police (Retired), Columbus Division of Police

Robert White  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Denver Police Department

Art Acevedo  
Chief of Police, Miami Police Department

Charlie Beck  
Superintendent of Police, Chicago Police Department  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Los Angeles Police Department

Roberto Villaseñor (Ret.)  
Chief of Police (Fmr.) Tucson Police Department

Rodney Monroe  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Charlotte Police Department

Richard Ross  
Commissioner (Fmr.), Philadelphia Police Department

Kevin Bethel  
Deputy Police Commissioner (Fmr.), Philadelphia Police Department

Ronal Serpas, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Police (Ret.), New Orleans Police Department  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Nashville Police Department  
Chief of the Washington State Patrol (Fmr.)

J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police (Ret.), Montgomery County Police Department  
Chief of Police (Ret.), Fairfax County Police Department  
Past President Major Cities Chiefs Association

Gordon Ramsay  
Police Chief, Wichita Police Department  
Police Chief, (Fmr.), Duluth Police Department

Dr. Cedric L. Alexander  
Retired Police Executive, DeKalb County Police Department

Kevin Davis  
Police Commissioner (Fmr.), Baltimore Police Department

Terry G. Hillard

Retired Superintendent, Chicago, Illinois, 1998-2003 & Interim (2011-March/May)

Rick Lincoln  
Sheriff (Fmr.), Clinton County Sheriff's Office

Gil Kerlikowske  
Police Chief (Fmr.), Seattle Police Department

Richard W. Myers  
Police Chief (Ret.): Newport News Police Department  
Colorado Springs Police Department  
Appleton Police Department  
Lisle Plymouth Police Department  
Former Executive Director, Major Cities Chiefs Association

Kenton Buckner  
Chief of Police, Syracuse Police Department

Earnell Lucas  
Sheriff, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

William G. Gross  
Police Commissioner, Boston Police Department

David Mitchell  
Chief of Police, University of Maryland Police Department  
Chief of Police (Fmr.), Prince George's County Police Department  
Superintendent (Fmr.), Maryland State Police Department  
Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, State of Delaware