



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS, FRANKLIN SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

CHARLES H. RAMSEY
Commissioner

May 09, 2012

Representative Darrell Issa
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

I write to express my strong support for Attorney General Eric Holder and the progress that has been made on behalf of law enforcement under his leadership of the Department of Justice. I am extremely concerned about threats to find the Attorney General in contempt of Congress, in part, for his commitment to protect from public disclosure any information related to ongoing criminal investigations.

I have known Attorney General Holder for more than 12 years. He is a man whom I greatly admire for his high principals, integrity and devotion to duty. Over the nearly 9 years that I served as Chief of the Metropolitan Police in Washington, D.C., Attorney General Holder, as a former United States Attorney in D.C., provided insight which proved invaluable in my efforts to improve that Department. While serving as the First Deputy Attorney General for then Attorney General Janet Reno, I personally witnessed his commitment to the men and women in law enforcement. I called upon him on numerous occasions concerning issues of importance to law enforcement and he was always there for us. After leaving the Attorney General's Office he continued to support both law enforcement and his community by serving as Chairman of the Washington D.C. Police Foundation, a position he held for over 2 years.

I urge you to consider the pressing matters that Americans are confronting each and every day. In our cities, crime prevention and suppression are our highest priorities and our efforts have been aided by Attorney General Holder's unwavering support for our departments and our officers. Under Attorney General Holder, the Department of Justice has prioritized support for state and local law enforcement through improvements in the COPS Hiring Program, the Attorney General's Officer Safety Initiative and the VALOR Program. These programs ensure that our departments and officers receive the federal support that we need in order to keep our communities safe.

Attorney General Eric Holder

The ongoing Congressional inquiry to determine the facts in a tragically flawed operation, which spans at least two Administrations, is understandable. The inquiry, however, has also distracted the Department of Justice in its efforts to assist state and local law enforcement — particularly in the area of violent crime prevention and suppression. Unfortunately, this inquiry has also been used as an attempt to tarnish the reputation of a man whose character, in my opinion, is above reproach. This causes me deep concern.

Therefore, I ask that you respect the Department's tradition of not making public any information related to ongoing law enforcement operations and reconsider your efforts to cite Attorney General Holder for contempt for standing up for this important principle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "C" and "R".

Charles H. Ramsey
Police Commissioner, Philadelphia, P.D.
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association
President, Police Executive Research Forum

cc: **President Barack Obama**
Vice President Joseph Biden
Senator Robert Casey, Jr.
Senator Patrick Toomey
Senator Patrick Leahy
Representative Lamar Smith
Eric Holder, US Attorney General