

TOWN OF WINTHROP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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August 26, 2021

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

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

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

I am writing your committee in support of the President's nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins for the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. As the police chief in Winthrop, Massachusetts, I've had the great pleasure to work alongside DA Rollins several times since 2018 and she has proven herself an open and honest leader and collaborator.

Our most recent collaboration began on June 26, 2021, when an individual crashed a truck into a building in a residential section of my community, left the accident scene, and assassinated two separate innocent bystanders, United States Air Force veteran Ramona Cooper and retired Massachusetts State Police trooper David Green. One of my on-duty sergeants encountered

the subject and ordered him to drop his weapon. The suspect instead trained his firearm on the sergeant, who then shot and killed him. In over the 25 years I've served in town of Winthrop, my community and my police department were privileged to have never experienced such a horrific event. It was overwhelming from every facet.

District Attorney Rollins came to the scene and spoke to the victims' families, affected neighbors, and the community, and vowed to spare no effort investigating the heinous crime committed that day. Her presence in the community went beyond professional obligation she was aware of how many lives had been forever impacted by the event, and her actions seemed guided by genuine humanity and compassion. She worked tirelessly alongside us. Within hours, DA Rollins' team had concrete evidence that the murders were racially motivated - two innocent members of our community were gunned down in the middle of the street because they were Black. She weathered some criticism for calling the incident a hate crime, but I agreed completely with her facts and findings and supported the statement. DA Rollins was the first to call my sergeant a hero and to acknowledge that his actions saved many more lives that day. She continued to support the town for weeks after the event assisting however she could, including keeping the community informed. Her office was intimately involved in coordinating stress counseling for the community and the victims' families, who had flown in from out of state, and she fully supported letting the sergeant and his family decide when he would return to work. She didn't just get us through the day – she helped us start to heal. District Attorney Rollins was completely engaged and committed to supporting the entire community – the victims, their families, the citizens, and all the first responders, including the Winthrop Police Department.

A year prior to this incident, I asked DA Rollins to perform an outside review of the Winthrop Police Department's handling of another racially charged incident, when a retired firefighter use the "N word" as he drove past an older Black male. The Winthrop Police Department acknowledged that the incident was reprehensible but found that no legal violation had occurred. Segments of the community were outraged by our conclusion. DA Rollins performed an independent review of the incident and concluded that a thorough and appropriate investigation was conducted. She went a step further and took the time to meet with the Town's Diversity and Inclusion Commission to walk them through her findings and to help them understand why the incident was not one that violated the criminal statutes of Massachusetts.

District Attorney Rollins will not shy away from uncomfortable conversations. She's thoughtful and truly listens – she's insightful and objective. I have always appreciated that even when we don't agree, DA Rollins is willing to discuss her policies and practices with those most affected by them – the citizens of the county and law enforcement. She supports the people she serves, holds herself and her leaders accountable, and puts people over politics. I've worked side by side with District Attorney Rachael Rollins on some of the most trying cases of my career, and I can say without a doubt she would be an asset to any organization lucky enough to have her.

I vehemently support Rachael Rollins in becoming the next United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if the Committee has any questions.

Respectfully,

Terence M. Delehanty

Chief of Police

Interim Town Manager