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Dear Senators & Assembly Members,

Prosecutor Esther Suarez has our full confidence and our full support, not just as it relates to a recent investigation that has come into question, but as it relates to her overall performance in her three plus years leading the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. She is a strong, effective leader who has overseen tremendous and positive change for the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.

As previously stated publicly by Prosecutor Suarez, a recent high profile investigation involved four Investigators and two Supervising Assistant Prosecutors with a combined total of nearly 85 years of experience between April 2017 and November 2017. Prosecutor Suarez strongly affirms that she was never consulted during the active investigation and was only made aware of the parties involved after being contacted by a reporter on October 2, 2018, almost a full year after the investigation's conclusion. The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office is the second busiest Prosecutor's Office in the State of New Jersey. We have experience with the Special Victims Unit within the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and we have first-hand knowledge of the very high volume of work that the office handles. We are also familiar with the intense volume of work as it is the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office that handles every single investigation of sexual assault that is made in Hudson County, not the individual police departments. Prosecutor Suarez' statement can be found at the below stated link for your review.

http://www.hudsoncountyprosecutorsofficenj.org/press_releases/statement-of-hudson-county-prosecutor-esther-suarez/

Previously published reports have indicated a completely inaccurate depiction of Prosecutor Suarez' role in this investigation. Any suggestion that it was handled in a manner that could have deviated from anything but utmost professionalism and highest moral standards goes against everything Prosecutor Suarez has been about as a Judge and County Prosecutor and goes against what she expects of all of her Chiefs in the county, her own Assistant Prosecutors and her own Investigators. We ask the Members of this Legislature to take into consideration the experiences that the Hudson County Chiefs of Police have had with Prosecutor Suarez, as you deliberate over what the Special Committee will be examining.

Investigations by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and any involvement by Prosecutor Suarez never allow for "political considerations" or "special circumstances," and any possible suggestion or insinuation to the contrary is an affront to the individuals working every day to do the difficult but important job of protecting communities throughout Hudson County.

We are sure the Legislative Select Oversight Committee will effectively conduct whatever review it sees fit, but we would request that any review of law enforcement be specifically excluded from the purview of this committee, as that falls squarely within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Attorney General. As members of the law enforcement and prosecutorial community, we take great pains to make sure that we follow New Jersey Law and Attorney General Guidelines and we make every effort to enforce those laws and guidelines with the public fairly. We are asking for the same guidelines to be followed as it relates to the role of Prosecutor Suarez and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office in the matter under consideration today.

Sincerely,

Richard Molinari

Chief Richard Molinari, President
Union City Police Dept.

Chief Ken Ferrante

Chief Kenneth Ferrante, Vice-President
Hopoken Police Dept.

Robert Dowd

Chief Robert Dowd, Past President
North Bergen Police Dept.