

CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION Of HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY



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November 30, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the New Jersey Legislature:

We are writing today to request the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and Hudson County Prosecutor Esther Suarez be removed from consideration to be called to testify before the recently formed Legislative Committee to examine Murphy Administration hiring practices.

As you know, the Hudson County Prosecutor emphatically stated her belief that her office's investigation into the allegations brought forth by Katie Brennan were handled properly by six members of the office with almost 85 years of combined experience between them over the course of the investigation from April 2017 through November 2017.

Prosecutor Suarez and her office were later validated by Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA). As a result of these findings, as well as the original investigation undertaken by the law enforcement professionals in the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, it has become abundantly clear that Prosecutor Suarez and her office should have no role in the upcoming Legislative Committee hearing. While the Legislature has no legal authority to require a County Prosecutor, any testimony by "invitation" would set a dangerous precedent moving forward for law enforcement and prosecutors. We cannot stress enough how relevant it is that a subsequent review by other members of law enforcement proves more than sufficient to remove the need for any "invitation" to testify before this Committee. In fact, according to published reports, General Grubir himself wrote in his letter to the legislative committee that he believes the OPIA review "obviates the need for further legislative inquiry into this matter."

Unfortunately, in this same press report, one of the committee's co-chairs said members had not decided whether to interview the Hudson County Prosecutor and went on to declare "there's a lot of different factors that would have to fall into place before we would call on the prosecutor." And another Assembly member serving on the committee told The Jersey Journal she thinks lawmakers should still hear from Prosecutor Suarez.

We believe that the investigation into the original allegation as well as the subsequent investigation into the original handling of the case should be more than sufficient to remove the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and the Prosecutor herself from any further involvement in this matter. Further, as the Prosecutor herself was named in the original resolution creating the Legislative Oversight Committee, we believe it should be acknowledged by the Committee for the record that the Hudson County Prosecutor and the tremendous law enforcement professionals serving in that office should have no role in the upcoming hearings.

Respectfully,


Kenneth Ferrante, President
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