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8-01-17

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
651 Pine Street
Martinez, California 94553

July 6, 2017

Re: Process to Appoint Interim District Attorney of Contra Costa County

Dear Chairman Glover, and Supervisors Andersen, Burgis, Gioia, and Mitchoff,

We the undersigned would first like to commend the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for holding the special June 23rd meeting to discuss the appointment process for our next district attorney and for posting the process and timeline on the county website. While we believe your intent is to engage in a transparent, community-first process to appoint the interim DA of our county, we have serious concerns about the current process as laid out.

In our June 22, 2017 letter to the Board, we expressed an interest in a transparent, community-first and community driven process to appoint the next DA. To us, this means the community is included in ALL decision-making points and is able to weigh in on substantive policy questions posed to each applicant. As currently outlined, we believe the process you have laid out excludes community input and fails to deliver on the promise of transparency.

Specifically, page 2 of the June 23rd press release¹ issued by the County Administrator's Office states, "With applications due July 21, the Board of Supervisors will select finalists in early August. The Board of Supervisors will host a moderated candidate forum at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2017." This indicates that while the community will be allowed to ask questions of finalists selected by the Board, the community will have no involvement in the selection of finalists from the initial pool of applicants. We believe that narrowing the pool to 3-5 candidates is a critical first step and involvement from the community in this step, and all other steps until appointment, is essential to rebuilding trust.

To remedy this, we urge the Board of Supervisors to revisit the interim DA appointment process before July 21 by placing it on a July meeting agenda and consider some options, including:

- Create a community selection committee comprised of community leaders, reflective and representing the geographic and demographic diversity of the county, as well as representatives from the following constituencies and/or organizations: criminal justice reform, immigrant rights, formerly incarcerated individuals, victims' rights, the Public Defender Union, the District Attorney Union, labor, consumer rights and law enforcement. This committee will be responsible for formulating questions for applicants to answer as part of the application process. This committee will also work with the Board in early August to select the finalists and the final rationale for why applicants were, or were not, selected as finalists.
- Host at least two community forums with applicants, one which will include all applicants and a second which will include the finalists.

¹ <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46361>

- Disclose the following information in a timely manner: any past or present endorsement, campaign contribution, private meeting, and/or personal dealing between any member of the Board of Supervisors and any applicant for interim DA.
- Require all applicants for interim DA to disclose if they share the same political consultant and/or fundraiser with any members of the Board of Supervisors.

We the undersigned and the residents of Contra Costa County demand integrity from our Board of Supervisors in this process. We will not stand for corruption, closed door meetings or the doling out of favors. It is important to remember that the DA is an elected official and is ultimately accountable to us, the voters. We are fully aware that whomever the Board appoints to be our interim DA will have the advantage of incumbency come the June 2018 election. It is for this reason that the Board must include the community in all phases of the process and why we continue to advocate for a fully transparent and community-first process.

If the Board refuses to modify the process and address the concerns outlined in this letter, the public will not let the Board move forward without significant resistance.

Thank you again for your consideration of our requests and we look forward to re-establishing trust between the community and government by way of a modified process. If you have any questions for our coalition, please contact Sharlee Battle from Safe Return Project at SharleeBattle@gmail.com.

Thank you,





Contra Costa County Police Chiefs' Association

July 31, 2017

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us
651 Pine Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Selection of Next District Attorney

My name is Guy Swanger and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Concord. I am also the Chair of the Contra Costa County Police Chiefs' Association. I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Contra Costa County Police Chiefs' Association.

The District Attorney plays a vital role in the partnership among law enforcement agencies in addressing crime and disorder. The impacts of AB109, Proposition 47, and the increasing challenges from gangs, homelessness, and the mentally ill place increasing demands on the Office of the District Attorney.

The County Chiefs require a partner from the District Attorney's Office in these challenges. We ask you to select an individual that is invested in the community, who aggressively prosecutes felonies and misdemeanors and practices procedural justice. Someone who is proactive with quality of life crime, who openly shares information with law enforcement and the public, and embraces all parts of the criminal justice process. This individual should be a leader in the office and immediately earn the respect of the other deputy district attorneys.

I have worked in law enforcement for over 33 years and worked closely with many members of the District Attorney's Office in two different counties. I found the staff at the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office to be professional, responsive, and equally committed to fighting crime and disorder in our communities. What is needed right now is a leader committed to a partnership with local law enforcement,

Antioch • BART • Brentwood • CCC Office of the Sheriff • CHP • Clayton • Contra Costa Community College District
• Contra Costa Chief of Probation • Concord • Danville • East Bay Regional Parks • El Cerrito • Hercules •
Kensington • Lafayette • Martinez • Moraga • Oakley • Orinda • Pinole • Pittsburg • Pleasant Hill • Richmond •
San Pablo • San Ramon • Walnut Creek

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who recognizes the current strengths of the office, and who will be transparent and open to the demands of the communities in Contra Costa County.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the other law enforcement agencies in our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy A. Swanger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Guy" and last name "Swanger" clearly distinguishable.

Guy A. Swanger
Chief of Police, Concord
Chair, Contra Costa County Police Chiefs' Association

GS:dp