

D.1
9-12-17

June McHuen

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 11:34 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: District Attorney - Please include in public comment re: 9/12/17 Agenda item

I will forward to the BOS offices.

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
651 Pine St., Room 106
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)335-1904 (Desk)
(925)335-1900 (Office)

From: David Clark ;
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 11:06 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Subject: District Attorney - Please include in public comment re: 9/12/17 Agenda item

Attention Clerk of the Board - Please do include the below comment in the public comments re: the District Attorney 9/12/17 Board Agenda item (item D.1).

Dear Supervisors:

Judge Danielle Douglas is the applicant best positioned to make positive and constructive changes in the District Attorney's Office.

I believe the East Bay Times Editorial Board correctly stated that the county supervisors "must pick a successor with high ethical standards" and the new District Attorney must "restore integrity to, and rebuild the morale of, the office, and revamp the operation to make it more efficient and responsive to the community."

Judge Douglas was a Deputy District Attorney in the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office for 13 years and in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for one year before being appointed to the bench, where she has served for three years.

This combination of "inside" and "outside" experience gives her a unique combination of perspectives from which to view the inner workings of the Office as well as to appreciate how the Office is perceived from the outside. This combination of perspectives will allow her to achieve the goals described above. She is unique among the applicants in this regard.

She is passionate about the opportunity to bring the breadth and depth of her experience to bear on precisely these goals.

Judge Douglas is the best positioned of the applicants for District Attorney to achieve these objectives. I strongly encourage you to appoint her.

Respectfully submitted,

David Clark
Lafayette

DI

September 11, 2017 VIA EMAIL

TO Supervisor Federal Glover

CC Chief of Staff David Fraser

FROM Contra Costa Community College Board Ward 5 Trustee Greg Enholm



RE Selection of an Interim Contra Costa County District Attorney

I have been proud to have you be my Supervisor since 2000. You continue to demonstrate your commitment to helping my community of Bay Point and our College District especially by having events which have brought people to Los Medanos College who may never have been there.

It is probably not necessary for me to provide you with what I write below but I have sent it to the other four Supervisors and believe it could help you in making the very important decision about who will be our next District Attorney.

I have read the online materials for all five finalists as well as also attending the August 15 interviews as well as the NAACP interviews on Sat Sep 9 in Antioch.

As an elected official since 2002 (but not in any way speaking on behalf of my current board) who has personally known and had professional interaction (see attachments) with our now-resigned District Attorney Mark Peterson, **I have concluded that all five finalists are fully qualified to serve as Interim Contra Costa County District Attorney.**

With all five finalists fully qualified, I believe the Board of Supervisors should recognize that it appears that all prior District Attorneys (see <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/3124/History-of-the-Office>) have been white men creating the impression that women and people of color were not found to be qualified.

With two finalists, Diana Becton and Danielle Douglas, being both fully qualified and African American women, the Board of Supervisors can follow the lead of the Contra Costa Community College Board when in 2005 an African American woman, Dr. Helen Benjamin (<http://contracostaherald.com/041203-2/>), was appointed as Chancellor after having only white men as predecessors since 1949. Chancellor Benjamin served with distinction receiving both state-wide and national recognition until her retirement in 2016. Just three years later American voters elected Illinois Senator Barack Obama, an African American, as U.S. President and re-elected him in 2012 on the same ballot when I was elected to my current position.

As an elected official with 200,000 direct (voting) constituents and 1 million total residents in our college district, I have no doubt nor any reservations that either Judge Becton or Judge Douglas will serve our County with distinction as Interim Contra Costa County District Attorney until at least January 2019 when the duly elected District Attorney will take office (who could be the Interim District Attorney).

Thus, I respectfully request that you vote to support either Judge Becton or Judge Douglas to become our Interim Contra Costa County District Attorney. Selecting either individual will send a clear message to women and people of color that our County welcomes qualified individuals of any gender and color.

ATTACHMENTS

Sep 2 2015 Letter from District Attorney Mark Peterson to Contra Costa Community College Trustee Greg Enholm

Jun 5 2017 Letter from District Attorney Mark Peterson to Contra Costa Community College Chancellor Fred Wood



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Mark A. Peterson
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 2, 2015

The Honorable Greg Enholm, Trustee
Contra Costa Community College District
371 Rapallo Lane
Bay Point, CA 94565-6755

Dear Trustee Enholm:

As District Attorney of Contra Costa County it is my responsibility to prosecute criminals. However, as you know, it now costs approximately \$50,000 to house someone in prison for just one year. Crime is expensive. Thus, our office has made it a priority to do whatever we can to prevent crime, and we have amended the Mission Statement of our office to reflect this emphasis.

As part of our effort to prevent crime, I have been asking the cities in the county to pass anti-truancy ordinances to assure that all students are in school rather than potentially committing crimes. Also, our office funds a full-time Deputy District Attorney to speak at any school in the county about issues in the schools such as bullying, sexting, drug abuse, gangs, and gun violence. Additionally, we are partners in a program with the County Office of Education to increase school attendance, because we know if a student is in school they are much less likely to become involved in crime.

In addition to wanting to keep children in school, I want as many students as possible to graduate from high school and be aware of their opportunities to pursue post-secondary education, especially at our local, affordable community colleges. It is an unfortunate fact that about 75% of the inmates in our jails and prisons are high school dropouts.

Since becoming District Attorney in 2011, our office has developed a very strong intern program in which high school and college students come to our office and intern for days or weeks. This gives them an opportunity to physically see our lawyers and the criminal justice system in action. As a result, we believe we've inspired many of them to choose careers in law, or we've certainly increased their desire to pursue higher education.

I am aware that at your September 9, 2015 meeting, your Board will be discussing 2015-16 Board Goals. Because of our experience in observing the increased enthusiasm when students physically see a work place or a job in action, we believe that students could also benefit from seeing your community colleges in action. For that

reason, and the reasons stated earlier, I would like to suggest that you include the following goal as part of your discussion on September 9th:

“Work with the County Office of Education and county school districts to assure that every middle and high school student eligible for admission is given a tour of the appropriate campus and is encouraged to take at least one course prior to graduation.”

I believe this goal is consistent with the efforts the District Attorney's Office and the County of Office of Education have already embarked upon, and we would welcome your partnership with us. Having students learn about the opportunities for jobs and careers at your colleges will make it more likely that students will have successful lives without straying into criminal activity which would place a burden on law enforcement and my office.

Please note that my request is consistent with Recommendations 1, 3, 5, and 6 of the August 14, 2015 “California Community Colleges Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy” report which emphasize career exploration and planning; preparing students for jobs; identifying high school students; and accessibility.

Thank you for being willing to cooperate with my office in emphasizing crime prevention as the most cost effective way to assure our residents experience **not** just less crime now, but a declining rate of criminal activity in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 925-957-2218 or mpeterson@contracostada.org.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Peterson
District Attorney



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

RECEIVED
6.13.17

Mark A. Peterson
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 5, 2017

Fred Wood, Chancellor
Costa Community College District
500 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Chancellor Wood:

The purpose of this letter is to remind the College District that the Office of District Attorney is available as your partner to do whatever we can to help the youth of our community to be successful. As you know, to be successful, students need to finish high school, and ideally pursue some form of higher education, either at a four-year school, a community college, or participate in vocational training.

As District Attorney of Contra Costa County it is my responsibility to prosecute criminals. However, as you know, it now costs approximately \$50,000 to house someone in prison for just one year. Crime is expensive. That is why our office has made it a priority to do whatever we can to prevent crime, and we have amended the Mission Statement of our office to reflect this emphasis.

As part of our effort to prevent crime, I have asked the cities in the county to pass anti-truancy ordinances to assure that all students are in school rather than potentially committing crimes. Also, our office funds a full-time Deputy District Attorney to speak at any school in the county about issues in the schools such as bullying, sexting, drug abuse, gangs, and gun violence. Additionally, we are partners in a program with the County Office of Education to increase school attendance, because we know if a student is in school they are much less likely to become involved in crime. **It's an unfortunate fact that about 75% of the inmates in our jails and prisons are high school dropouts.**

In addition to wanting to keep students in school, we want as many students as possible to graduate from high school and be aware of their opportunities to pursue post-secondary education, especially at our local, affordable community colleges. In fact, one of my children attended community college and matriculated to a four year university. One of my other children is currently attending a community college and both of them have been very pleased with their experiences.

Since becoming District Attorney in 2011, our office has developed a very

strong intern program in which high school and college students come to our office and intern for days or weeks. This gives them an opportunity to physically see our lawyers and the criminal justice system in action. As a result, we believe we've inspired many of them to choose careers in law, or we've certainly increased their desire to pursue higher education. I believe some of your College District students have participated in this program.

Once again, we offer to be a partner with your organization in whatever way is best for your organization to allow us mutual success. We don't presume to know in what manner this partnership may take form, however, it may include the intern program, speaking at any of your campuses, supporting visits by high school students to your campuses, or some other way we haven't considered. **Please let us know how we can work together.**

Thank you for being willing to cooperate with my office in emphasizing crime prevention as the most cost effective way to assure our residents experience not just less crime now, but a declining rate of criminal activity in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 925-957-2218 or mpeterson@contracostada.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Peterson', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Peterson
District Attorney