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May 12, 2021

via e-mail: katz@queensda.org

District Attorney Melinda Katz
Queens District Attorney's Office
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Dear District Attorney Katz:

Yesterday, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for the Eastern District of New York announced the indictment of three current and former NYPD officers – Heather Busch, Robert Hassett, and Robert Smith – in connection with multiple bribery schemes and other criminal conduct. The court filings and statements of Mark J. Lesko, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York make clear that the charged individuals' status as police officers was essential to their alleged criminal conduct. Mr. Lesko said, "As alleged, the defendants shamelessly violated their oaths of office and the public trust by trading their badges for cash payments. This Office will vigorously pursue corrupt public servants like these defendants, who exploited their positions as police officers for personal gain."

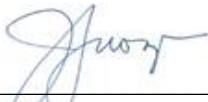
In addition, the USAO's court submissions reference evidence that Smith engaged in other, uncharged criminal conduct further evidencing "his utter disregard for the law, his duty as an NYPD officer, and the safety of the public." These submissions also describe Mr. Smith's racist, anti-Black behavior, including text messages admitting to waving his handgun at Black people to terrorize them and routinely using racist anti-Black slurs. While we recognize that these are allegations and all of these individuals enjoy the presumption of innocence afforded all criminal defendants, we believe that the allegations are sufficiently serious to warrant your office's review of all criminal cases involving these officers in the manner we previously requested in our May 3, 2021 letter.

We thank you for your continued commitment to investigating and exonerating those who may have been wrongfully convicted.

Very truly yours,



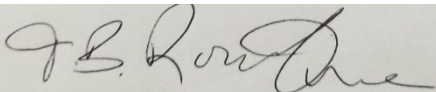
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