



NEWARK COMMUNITIES FOR

ACCOUNTABLE POLICING

July 16, 2015

Vanita Gupta
Acting Assistant Attorney General
United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Paul J. Fishman
United States Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Suite 700
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Acting Assistant Attorney General Gupta and U.S. Attorney Fishman:

After a careful and thoughtful deliberation process, Newark Communities for Accountable Policing (N-CAP) has chosen to recommend three independent monitor applicants who have demonstrated a strong commitment to community concerns, including to addressing civil rights and civil liberties concerns detailed in the Justice Department report on Newark policing, and presented effective plans for community engagement during a possible independent monitorship term. We respectfully offer our endorsement of the following applicants, listed in alphabetical order:

- Holland & Knight LLP
- Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC)
- Transparency Matters LLC

On March 19, 2015, N-CAP sent a letter to you seeking greater transparency in the monitor selection process. Following your release of the names of the 21 independent monitor applicants, N-CAP sent a community engagement questionnaire to each applicant to learn more about their plans to work with the Newark community (see enclosed). After receiving and evaluating submitted materials from twelve applicants,¹ N-CAP invited a select number of the applicants for an interview to learn more about their plans to help improve police-community relations and hold the NPD accountable for civil rights and civil liberties abuses. The three aforementioned applicants represent a cohort that most impressed N-CAP's steering committee.

Newark is at a crossroads; for more than fifty years, residents of this city have called for comprehensive reform of the Newark Police Department (NPD) and now we have a tremendous opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting difference. As Newark residents embrace this moment of change, it is important that communities from across the city are engaged and included in the reform process, including in the selection of the independent monitor for the police department.

¹ Copies of all materials submitted to N-CAP by monitor applicants may be found at www.newarkpolicereform.org.

We hope that you will take into account N-CAP's endorsement as you continue the monitor selection process. Should you have any questions, please contact Rashawn Davis by phone at 973-854-1730 or by email at rdavis@aclu-nj.org.

Sincerely,

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
Ironbound Community Corporation
Garden State Equality
NAACP New Jersey State Conference
Newark NAACP
New Jersey Communities United
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
People's Organization for Progress

cc: Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka
Newark Corporation Counsel Willie Parker

Encl: N-CAP Community Engagement Questionnaire