

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Appointment of Ronald Davis as Director of the COPS Office

Dear Mr. President and Attorney General Holder,

We are writing to applaud your choice of Ronald Davis, current Chief of Police for the East Palo Alto Police Department, to direct the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in the U.S. Department of Justice (the "COPS Office"). As Members of the California Delegation, we are pleased that an outstanding member of our community will soon be serving in this critical role, especially someone who will bring innovative insights, strong leadership and a public health perspective to this position. We also commend your prompt action on this vacancy at this particularly pivotal moment for the work under the COPS Office's jurisdiction.

Chief Davis is highly regarded, both locally and nationally, for his smart and creative approaches to policing. During his eight-year tenure as Chief of Police in East Palo Alto, Chief Davis' effective leadership has resulted in both significant reductions in crime and violence and increased public and community trust in law enforcement. Over the past six years, homicides in East Palo Alto, at one time the "murder capital" of the U.S., have dropped by over 50 percent, overall crime is down over 20 percent, and police and community relations have noticeably improved. Undoubtedly we will all benefit from Chief Davis' impressive experience and leadership as he works to make our nation's streets safer through prevention and public health-focused approaches.

We know that Chief Davis, a nationally recognized law enforcement expert on community policing and public health-oriented strategies, will encourage greater use of evidence-based strategies and interagency coordination to reduce crime in our communities. Chief Davis has experience with creative partnerships – he recently partnered with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Department of Transportation to implement a pilot parole-reentry program that provides programming, enforcement and job services to its

participants. This innovative initiative made the East Palo Alto Police Department the first police agency in the state to operate a state-funded reentry program, leading to a drop in recidivism from over 60 percent to less than 20 percent. We are looking forward to seeing what innovative approaches he will share with police nationally.

We also support Chief Davis' focus on ensuring fairness in all the law enforcement operations he oversees. His approaches have proven especially effective in communities of color, where the trust between law enforcement and the local community is often frayed. The COPS program has long benefitted from success in this area and the appointment of Chief Davis will only augment this.

Finally, we have seen and heard about Chief Davis' commitment to building ties to the children, youth and families in the communities where he has worked. This has ranged from an open door policy, to establishing "FitZones" to encourage more physical activity while making area parks more welcoming, to encouraging dialogue after the Trayvon Martin verdict.

Thank you for making such a fine choice to lead the COPS office. California's loss will be the nation's gain.


Sincerely,




Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



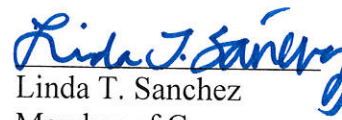
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress




Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress




Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



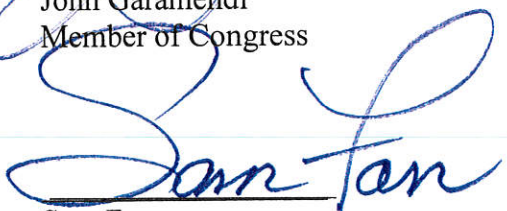
Henry Waxman
Member of Congress




Judy Chu
Member of Congress



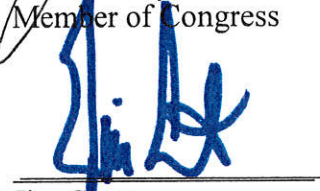
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



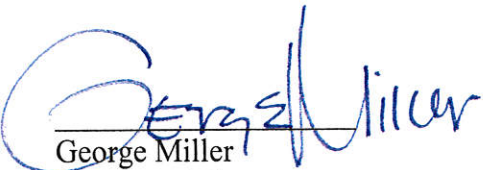
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



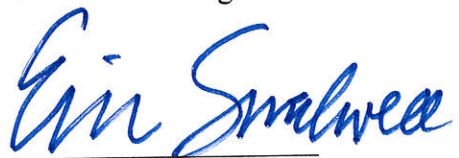
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



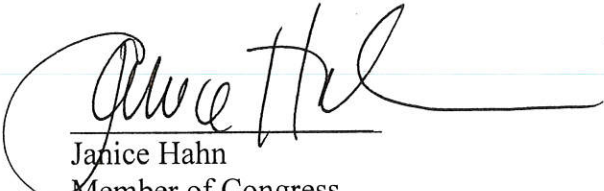
George Miller
Member of Congress



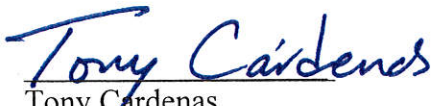
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



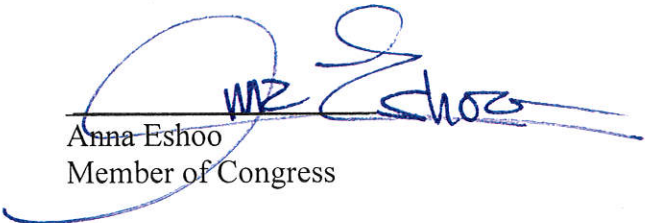
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



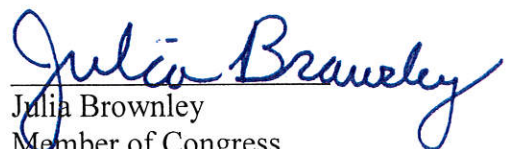
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress