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October 19, 2021

Senator Elgie Sims, Co-Chair  
Representative Justin Slaughter, Co-Chair  
Karen Sheley, Legal Counsel  
Task Force on Constitutional Rights and Remedies  
Subject: Recommendations

Dear Co-Chairs Sims and Slaughter:

I write this recommendation as a member of the Task Force and longtime representative of law enforcement officers and their labor organizations. I recommend that this committee extends its meeting schedule and believe that the issues of law enforcement interactions with individuals' constitutional rights are too important to adequately examine during 3 weeks of deliberations. There are substantive issues regarding the impact to officers, to taxpayers and to the State as a whole that must be further examined to come up with meaningful, effective and implementable strategies.

I also believe that the issues in discussion are strongly impacted by the recently passed and signed HB 3653, Safe-T Act. This Act has not fully gone into effect. This Act makes it much easier to punish bad officers. This Act will generate body camera footage and other evidence that will be impactful in examining the-conduct of officers. This Act empowers the Attorney General to investigate and take action against departments that act in an inappropriate and unconstitutional manner.

I do not believe that the Safe-T Act is the end of important conversations about police and their interactions with their communities, but I do believe this Act needs time to become fully effective in order for our Task Force and others to understand the full impact and effects on those interactions. To further upend law enforcement by pursuing a major change to a doctrine created under federal law and made available to all public employees, including elected officials, threatens the effective roll out of the most important instance of police reform in the nation.

Simply, I recommend an extension of the timeline and to continue to have meaningful dialogue aimed at ensuring the constitutional rights of all individuals are protected by all involved parties.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel A. D'Alba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joel A. D'Alba

JAD:bhg