Joint Statement on January 6, 2021 Attack on the Capitol

On Wednesday, January 6th, armed insurrectionists stormed the halls of our nation’s Capitol to violently disrupt our democratic process and the peaceful transition of power. For the first time in American history, the Confederate flag – a symbol of our nation’s darkest chapter and most shameful atrocities – flew within the Capitol. For the first time in American history, the sitting president incited a mob to defy the results of a fair and free election in an attempted coup.

As Americans, we are deeply angered by this unprecedented assault on our Republic. And as elected chief prosecutors, we say enough. We call upon President Trump and all other elected leaders to denounce these attacks and those who participated in them in no uncertain terms, to cease perpetuating mistruths that are fanning distrust and division in our nation, and to accept the results of the 2020 election.

For the last four years, our duty to protect our communities and uphold the legitimacy of our office has been made increasingly more difficult in the face of attacks on the rule of law and our democratic institutions from the highest leaders in the country. President Trump and his supporters have repeatedly incited violence and perpetuated conspiracy theories with devastating consequences. Public trust is at the heart of public safety, yet trust in government and our legal system has plummeted in the last four years. Words matter. And false narratives of a stolen election and efforts to disenfranchise countless Americans by ignoring their votes are attacks on our democracy and law and order, threatening the very wellbeing of our country.

The tragic events of January 6th make clear: no leader who incites violence and undermines faith in our democracy and our election process deserves to lead. And these brazen acts in defiance of American law and values cannot go without consequences. Five more lives have been lost and many have been injured and further traumatized at a time of already deep suffering in this nation. We demand accountability.

We are committed to preserving First Amendment rights, but as law enforcement leaders, we know that those rights do not include fomenting violence, interfering with fair elections, or rioting and looting in the halls of the heart of government. We must hold accountable all those who were responsible for Wednesday’s events, including anyone who incited and participated in the violence and all who failed to be prepared and appropriately respond to it.

As leaders committed to equal justice for all, we also feel compelled to call out the profound inequity on display on Wednesday. During overwhelmingly peaceful protests for racial equity this past year, law enforcement across the United States all too often responded with violence, aggressive and militarized use of force, and mass arrests. Yet when predominantly white armed insurgents attacked our nation’s halls of governance on January 6th, looting and destroying federal property, many in law enforcement appeared to stand aside. This profound and racist double standard makes clear the depth of inequity in our nation’s policing practices, the need for
broader systemic transformation, and the necessity of a thorough inquiry into Wednesday’s law enforcement response.

These ongoing failures of federal leadership of the highest order also make clear the need for change under the incoming administration. Among many reforms, we call for a truly independent Department of Justice to restore the integrity of that body and our federal government. Our leaders must be above lying, deception, and inciting violence – and they must be held to account when those lines are crossed. These events make clear that our future as a nation is at stake.

List of Signatories

Amy Ashworth
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Prince William County, Virginia

Jean Peters Baker
Prosecuting Attorney, Jackson County, Missouri

Diana Becton
District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

Wesley Bell
Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

Buta Biberaj
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Loudoun County, Virginia

Sherry Boston
District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

Chesa Boudin
District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California

Aisha Braveboy
State’s Attorney, Prince George’s County, Maryland

John Choi
County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Darcel Clark
District Attorney, Bronx County, New York

Dave Clegg
District Attorney, Ulster County, New York

Scott Colom
District Attorney, 16th Judicial District, Mississippi
John Creuzot
District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas

Satana Deberry
District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina

Steve Descano
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Fairfax County, Virginia

Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.
Attorney General, Vermont

Mark Dupree
District Attorney, Wyandotte County, Kansas

Matthew Ellis
District Attorney, Wasco County, Oregon

Keith Ellison
Attorney General, Minnesota

Aaron Ford
Attorney General, Nevada

Kimberly M. Foxx
State’s Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

Mike Freeman
County Attorney, Hennepin County, Minnesota

Kimberly Gardner
Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

José Garza
District Attorney, Travis County, Texas

George Gascón
District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California

Sarah F. George
State’s Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

Sim Gill
District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah
Updated January 14, 2021

Joe Gonzales
District Attorney, Bexar County, Texas

Deborah Gonzalez
District Attorney, Western Judicial Circuit, Georgia

Eric Gonzalez
District Attorney, Kings County, New York

Mark Gonzalez
District Attorney, Nueces County, Texas

Andrea Harrington
District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Jim Hingeley
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Albemarle County, Virginia

Natasha Irving
District Attorney, Sixth Prosecutorial District, Maine

Michael Jackson
District Attorney, Dallas County, Alabama

Melinda Katz
District Attorney, Queens County, New York

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney, Kauai County, Hawaii

Lawrence S. Krasner
District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Beth McCann
District Attorney, Second Judicial District, Colorado

Ryan Mears
Prosecuting Attorney, Marion County, Indiana

Brian Middleton
District Attorney, Fort Bend County, Texas

Stephanie Morales
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia
Updated January 14, 2021

Michael W. Morrissey
District Attorney, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

Marilyn J. Mosby
State’s Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

Jody Owens
District Attorney, Hinds County, Mississippi

Alonzo Payne
District Attorney-Elect, Twelfth Judicial District, Colorado

Bryan Porter
Commonwealth’s Attorney, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Karl A. Racine
Attorney General, District of Columbia

Mimi Rocah
District Attorney, Westchester County, New York

Rachael Rollins
District Attorney, Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Jeff Rosen
District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

Ellen Rosenblum
Attorney General, Oregon

Marian T. Ryan
District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Dan Satterberg
Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

Eli Savit
Prosecuting Attorney, Washtenaw County, Michigan

Mike Schmidt
District Attorney, Multnomah County, Oregon

Carol A. Siemon
Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan
Updated January 14, 2021

David Soares
District Attorney, Albany County, New York

David E. Sullivan
District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

Shannon Taylor
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Henrico County, Virginia

Raúl Torrez
District Attorney, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Matthew Van Houten
District Attorney, Tompkins County, New York

Cyrus R. Vance
District Attorney, New York County, New York

Lynneice Washington
District Attorney, Jefferson County, Bessemer District, Alabama

Todd Williams
District Attorney, Buncombe County, North Carolina