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To whom it may concern:

The District Attorney sets the agenda for what crimes will be prioritized, what services and outcomes crime victims and defendants will receive, and indirectly what the police respond to when citizens call for service. The Multnomah County Prosecuting Attorney's Association (MCPAA) represents the diverse and progressive professionals who serve under the elected DA as deputy district attorneys. Our membership has extensive experience with both candidates and unanimously endorses Ethan Knight for DA. Ethan is the only candidate qualified to serve as DA due to his experience, integrity, and sustainable plan for criminal justice reform.

Ethan Knight has dedicated his 21-year-career as a prosecutor to advancing the interests of public safety and giving a voice to victims in this county. He has prosecuted murder, terrorism, environmental crimes, domestic violence and sexual assault. His vision for this office is based on his own experiences as a prosecutor and the needs of this county.

Mike Schmidt, by contrast, spent only a few years in our office and never tried a violent felony case. Because he has never personally tried to a court or jury any felony level assault, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse or homicide case, he will be ill equipped to set policies on how these offenses should be handled in this county. Our community needs a District Attorney with significant experience in serious criminal matters to ensure that victims, defendants, and the public at large, are served with fairness, professionalism, and competence.

Ethan Knight has concrete and sustainable plans to reform criminal justice in Multnomah County. He supports robust expansions to addiction treatment, mental health care, and services to address chronic homelessness and he has proven this dedication by leading our original Community Court program. Ethan is familiar with the limited capacity of our jails and will effectively use jail to focus on preventing violent crime.

This membership cannot support Mike Schmidt because his policy platform is inconsistent and vague. He has stated every buzzword that exists in criminal justice but fails to explain how these relate to the reality of Multnomah County. His policies do not demonstrate an understanding of local criminal justice necessary to implement successful progressive reforms. For example, Mr. Schmidt supports the national bail reform issue but consistently fails to acknowledge that the reality in Multnomah County is that very few non-violent or non-risky individuals are held in custody pre-trial and that the County

lacks the funding to even support its current pre-trial supervision team let alone Mr. Schmidt's expansive plans.

Above all, the Office of the District Attorney should embody transparency. On multiple occasions, Mr. Schmidt has expressed directly contrary stances to different audiences. He has suggested to members in the legal community that, very plainly, he is saying what he needs to say to get elected. For these reasons, we proudly support Ethan Knight as the next District Attorney for Multnomah County, a progressive who has shown throughout his career, a consistent and dedicated mission to public safety, community partnership, and victim protection.

Sincerely,

The MCPAA Executive Board

On behalf of the MCPAA

Dated: 3/23/2020