



**SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY RACHAEL ROLLINS**

January 5, 2022

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

I write to inform you that on Monday January 10, 2022, I will take the oath of office to become the next United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. I expect to receive my official Commission from President Biden no later than this Friday, January 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup> My hope is that your appointee is prepared to fully assume the role of District Attorney on January 10, 2022.

Serving the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop as the elected District Attorney of Suffolk County has been the greatest honor of my professional career. My two primary objectives as District Attorney have always been to keep Suffolk County safe and to improve the relationship between communities most impacted by crime and members of law enforcement. Over the last three years, the number of violent crimes committed in Boston has decreased. In two of those three years, we saw historic lows in homicides. This has everything to do with the thoughtful and strategic community policing approach employed by the many dedicated law enforcement partners working together throughout Suffolk County. During that same period, my office poured unprecedented amounts of grant funding back into the neighborhoods most impacted by violence and substance use disorders while significantly increasing our community engagement efforts. Everything we do is connected.

In November 2018, Suffolk County voted for change and a new vision of what public safety could look like. My platform was clear: divert our overwhelming attention away from the non-serious, non-violent crimes so we could focus our limited resources on prosecuting and preventing the most

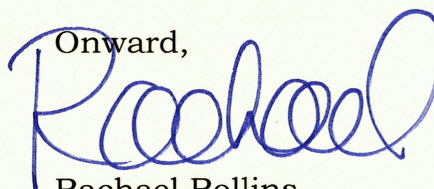
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<sup>1</sup> The First Assistant District Attorney plans on officially resigning Monday, January 10, 2022. Any urgent matters that may arise from Friday, January 7, 2022, to Monday at 10:00 am on January 10, 2022, can be ably handled by First Assistant Mulhern in my absence.

serious, violent crimes in Suffolk County. The voters of Suffolk County overwhelmingly supported this platform. This is the approach to public safety they wanted, and whoever assumes this office should respect the voters' wishes. Today, some three years later, Boston remains one of the only major cities in the United States of America where violent crime, including homicide, is down. Law enforcement in Suffolk County has a lot to be proud of. We have record numbers regarding fentanyl prosecutions. We have dedicated significant resources to unsolved homicides and gotten results – three murder indictments and counting.

With these results, the job description for Suffolk County District Attorney has changed. The people of Suffolk County no longer simply require that their District Attorney be a functional expert in the subject matter of the office (criminal prosecution, including homicides and violent felonies). Today, the District Attorney must also have the trust and support of the communities most impacted by crime and criminal prosecution. The District Attorney needs meaningful relationships with law enforcement, but must be prepared to hold them accountable if necessary. Community groups, activists, civic associations, victim and survivor organizations, business owners, clergy, law enforcement (including police unions), the criminal defense bar, elected officials, youth groups, and returning citizens are all vital partners in this work and deserve a seat at the table when decisions are being made that impact them. Required skills for this position now include: a trauma-informed, data-driven, and evidence-based approach to prosecution; showing up and engaging with every single neighborhood that makes up Suffolk County, including Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop; and recognizing that significant disparities still exist in the criminal legal system. We cannot move backwards. The people of Suffolk County deserve what they voted for.

I inherited an office filled with exceptional, dedicated, and hard-working professionals. I am proud to say that your appointee will inherit the same. You have an important and impactful decision to make. As United States Attorney, I intend to be a partner with you and the new District Attorney of Suffolk County on matters of public safety and health during 2022 and beyond. I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

Onward,  


Rachael Rollins  
Suffolk County District Attorney

CC: William Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts