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Via Email and U.S. Mail

Representative Zach Fields
Room 515, Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov

Re: Request for Public Testimony on Acting Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety,
Amanda Price.

Representative Fields,

I have received your request that I provide testimony on April 4th relating to the confirmation of Acting Commissioner of Public Safety, Amanda Price.

I served as Governor Bill Walker's Chief of Staff from December 2016 until December 2018, and the start of the new administration. I can confirm that Ms. Price was employed by the Office of the Governor prior to my appointment as Chief of Staff and for a brief time after. Although I do not specifically recall the date, the exact timing of her separation should be a matter of record. I believe her title at that time was special advisor on crime policy and prevention.

In addition to your request, I have been told that Ms. Price has listed her experience working in the Walker Administration as a critical element of her qualifications for the appointment. As a result, I asked the Department of Law to provide me with guidance regarding my obligations to Ms. Price under the Alaska Personnel Act and/or the Executive Ethics Act, which bind my actions related to information I obtained in the course of my prior employment. The Department of Law concluded that information regarding Ms. Price's employment is not specifically covered by the Personnel Act because she served the Walker Administration as an exempt employee. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, I have elected to treat my experience and knowledge regarding Ms. Price as though it is covered by the Personnel Act.

A joint session of the legislature will ultimately meet and decide whether to permanently approve Ms. Price for the position of Commissioner of Public Safety. From my experience as Chief of Staff, I understand how important sound, experienced leadership in this position is to the welfare of Alaskans. I further believe that confirmation of appointments is a critical function of the legislative branch, and that legislators are entitled to the most complete information possible prior to taking those votes.

In accordance with the above, I ask that you request Ms. Price provide a waiver of any possible obligations I might have to her under the Personnel Act. If Ms. Price elects to provide such a waiver, I am reluctantly prepared to provide testimony—voluntarily and without a subpoena—regarding her role and performance in the Walker Administration, as well as the circumstances of her departure.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Kendall