

TOM REED  
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, REPUBLICAN LEADER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKER FAMILY SUPPORT

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
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The Honorable William Barr  
Attorney General of the United States  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Barr,

I am sure you were as appalled as I was regarding the recent acts of hate toward officers of the New York City Police Department as buckets of water were poured on the heads of on-duty police. Even more appalling was that in at least one recorded incident, the empty bucket was hurled at the water-soaked officer, which hit him in the head.

Make no mistake – these officers were attacked because of the badge and uniform they wear. If our nation does not come together to confront the rhetoric of hate and the attacks on our law enforcement officers, the safety of our homes and communities will be in jeopardy.

These criminals have been emboldened by some district attorneys' refusal to prosecute certain low-level crimes, as well as recently enacted state and local laws requiring officers to issue tickets for certain offenses instead of making arrests.

Even further, these actions are a result of Democrat politicians spouting anti-police rhetoric to gain cheap political points. While we cannot control the extreme rhetoric of these politicians and the total disrespect local district attorneys have shown toward police by refusing to prosecute these crimes, the United States Justice Department does have the ability to investigate criminal hate crime charges against those who commit crimes against law enforcement officers and pursue criminal charges for assaulting a police officer.

Given the rise in anti-police rhetoric and actions which have been emboldened by the refusal of local district attorneys to prosecute, the Department of Justice should investigate criminal hate crime charges against those dumping water on police or any other serious act of disrespect toward any law enforcement officer and pursue criminal charges for assaulting a police officer. Our law enforcement officers get up in the morning, ready to face whatever happens that day in the name of protecting our citizens – they deserve better – and should not have to face these egregious attacks.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress