



PRESS STATEMENT - October 14, 2015
Confirmation Hearing – Interim Commissioner Kevin Davis

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Baltimore, MD - Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) is attending the confirmation hearing of Interim Police Commissioner Kevin Davis to show the organization's support for his appointment as the Baltimore City Police Commissioner. Comprised of 40 congregations, schools, and associations representing over 20,000 citizens, BUILD is the most diverse multi-racial constituency in the city. BUILD is deeply rooted in Baltimore and on the ground in neighborhoods throughout the city.

In a short time and under difficult circumstances, Interim Commissioner Davis has acted to build trust between the community and police, coordinated federal agencies for assistance, and targeted the most violent offenders in our community. He has shown exemplary leadership and his officers have begun to respond by following him. As a city, we have a long way to go, but Davis has demonstrated the potential to curb the violence and make desperately needed reforms.

BUILD has judged Davis the same way we judged his predecessors – on results. Already, he has worked tirelessly to engage the community by initiating and cultivating relationships with residents and neighborhood and faith leaders. “He gave us his word. He continues to keep his word,” explains Rev. Glenna Huber, BUILD Co Chair. “BUILD called for the mobilization of federal and outside resources. He delivered. We called for increased police presence. He responded. We called for foot patrols. He is training his officers before deploying them. We called for him to get on the ground and introduce himself to communities. He showed up. BUILD will continue to hold him accountable just like we did his predecessors.”

Davis has experience in working in a police department that required significant overhaul. He's led a police department's reform efforts under a federal consent decree. He's got the right experience.

“This is a critical time in the life of Baltimore,” explains Rev. Andrew Foster Connors, BUILD Co Chair. “We need stable, consistent leadership right now. Baltimore needs a police commissioner that can be held fully accountable to curb the violence and make desperately needed reforms. This job requires a leader who is fully committed, an interim won't cut it.”