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**Statement by the Monitor, Karl A. Racine,
Regarding the Hiring of Phillip McHugh**

Washington, DC, 15 April 2024

“On Thursday, April 11, 2024, the Monitoring Team learned of the City of Cleveland’s decision to hire Phillip McHugh to serve as a Senior Advisor for Public Safety. Mr. McHugh was previously employed as a Detective with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (DC MPD).

“As Clevelanders who have followed the Monitorship know, prior to being appointed Monitor in this Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and Department of Justice, I served as the first-elected Attorney General of DC from 2015-2023.

“The Office of Attorney General for DC is statutorily required to represent DC agencies—including the DC MPD and DC MPD officers sued in their official capacity—in court.

“This means that during my tenure as the DC Attorney General, my office served as counsel to the DC MPD and its employees in cases alleging civil rights violations.

“Immediately upon learning that the City of Cleveland hired Mr. McHugh, I contacted the DC Office of Attorney General to understand my prior office’s role in the complaint brought against Mr. McHugh by the Sherrod family. The DC Office of Attorney General confirmed that it had previously represented DC MPD and Mr. McHugh in the Sherrod family matter while I was Attorney General.

“Given the concerns raised about the City’s hiring of Mr. McHugh, I have consulted with Hogan Lovells’ General Counsel about the ethical implications of my serving as Monitor.

“I have been advised that while I cannot discuss information related to Mr. McHugh’s work for the DC MPD and the case filed against him, it is perfectly appropriate for me to listen

and engage with the community, the City, the Department of Justice, and the Court regarding any concerns around Mr. McHugh's hiring and current employment with the City of Cleveland.

"The Honorable Judge Solomon Oliver Jr., the Monitoring Team, the City of Cleveland, and the Department of Justice are aware of the facts in this statement, which I am issuing to ensure full transparency with the community.

ENDS