

Opening Statement of David A. Montoya
Nominee for Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development
Before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
United States Senate

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Chairman Johnson, Senator Shelby, and Members of the Committee thank you for the privilege and opportunity to discuss my nomination as Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is an honor to appear before this distinguished Committee.

If you will permit me, I would like to acknowledge my wife, Katherine and children, Alyssa and Jonathan, both of whom are students at Colorado State University. While they were unable to be here with me today, I want to take a moment to publically thank them for all of their support, thoughts and prayers. I would also like to recognize and thank my brother Daniel, who is here with me today and my sister Deborah who was unable to attend. Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank my parents who have truly been an inspiration to me. They raised me and my siblings with a strong work ethic, dedication to public service and leadership.

I am honored that President Obama has nominated me to the position of Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Department's mission "is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all" and I believe that owning your own home is truly a fundamental American dream. The Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's mission promotes the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of HUD programs and operations to assist the Department in meeting its mission.

My career has prepared me for the challenges of this position. I have spent the majority of my professional life dedicated to public service in Federal law enforcement. Sixteen of those years have been in oversight, supervisory and leadership positions, including ten years in the Federal Senior Executive Service and the Postal Career Executive Service.

As an Executive Special Agent in Charge, for the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Postal Service, I direct the largest field office overseeing 60% of the United States and a Postal Area with just under one billion dollars in contract obligations.

As Assistant Inspector General for Investigations with the Office of Inspector General, at the Department of the Interior, I reorganized and directed a national law enforcement program which helped to protect America's natural resources and heritage.

As Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division, I provided leadership and direction to a national

environmental crimes law enforcement program that investigated and helped to prosecute criminal conduct that threatened the health of our citizens and our environment.

As a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration I conducted criminal investigations of individuals and organizations who threatened our country's security with the importation of illicit drugs and the violence that drug trafficking produces.

My professional career has been characterized by increasing leadership roles and responsibilities with a commitment toward accountability and high ethical standards. While I have spent a career investigating violations of either criminal, civil or administrative laws and regulations, it has always troubled me that these crimes and violations occur in the first place.

If confirmed as the Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, I will stress the need for collaboration with Secretary Donovan and HUD staff to ensure that HUD's resources are being effectively and efficiently implemented. In addition, I will work to ensure early detection of warning signs of fraud or abuse through the IG's audits, evaluations, reviews and investigations. Every IG employee will focus on prevention, while ensuring that all funds lost through fraud, abuse or mismanagement is fully recovered.

A key priority, if I am confirmed, will be to maintain a strong partnership with this Committee and the Congress. The laws you write must be implemented in a manner that fulfills your intent and the very real needs of the people for whom they were written.

With the state of our economy and the limited financial resources our government faces it has never been more important to ensure that every dollar spent is spent-well.

Given my background, I understand the responsibilities that the position of Inspector General will require. I believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained in nearly a quarter century of public service in investigative and oversight roles make me uniquely qualified and prepared for the new challenges I will face, should I be confirmed.

If confirmed, I would look forward to the opportunity to work with this Committee and other Members of Congress, Secretary Donovan, and our state and local partners to be accountable and transparent with the work of the Office of Inspector General and the oversight of HUD's program responsibilities.

Chairman Johnson, Senator Shelby, members of the Committee thank you for allowing me the distinct privilege to testify here today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.