

TO: Ms. Anne M. Smith

FROM: Sheila S. Blakney

RE: Nomination of Lloyd E. Powell for the Frank J. Kelly Distinguished Public Service Award

DATE: March 5, 2009

I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for the Frank J. Kelly Distinguished Public Service Award than Washtenaw County Public Defender Lloyd E. Powell. Lloyd has practiced law in Michigan for 37 years, after completing a military career that included many years of service in Europe and the Orient before culminating as Chief of Investigations for the Office of Provost Marshall at U.S. Army Headquarters in Seoul, Korea. He has spent the majority of his life in public service, having held the appointed Office of Public Defender for Washtenaw County almost thirty years. Lloyd also served as a trial attorney for the prosecution and defense as well as a general practitioner in private practice prior to his appointment as Washtenaw County Public Defender.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement and Security from the University of Nebraska, Omaha campus, Lloyd earned his Juris Doctor and Masters of Business Administration (Management) degrees at Wayne State University's Law School and Graduate School of Business.

In his present position, Lloyd is the chief administrator and director of a high volume county governmental law firm comprised of 15 full time veteran trial attorneys and 3 legal clerk/assistants, further augmented year-round with an average of approximately 55 to 60 of the best and brightest student trial lawyers from law schools throughout the state and country plus select undergraduate students who serve ably as criminal investigators. His philosophy of life within the justice system is embodied in the following mission statement for the department:

*To partner with the community in preventing crime and enhancing public safety by rendering top quality legal representation as needed to enforce constitutionally mandated public defense competently, effectively, efficiently, ethically and vigorously in all criminal, juvenile and civil law appointments in order to achieve justice where rights are protected, due process is received fairly and equally, rehabilitation is effective, recidivism is reduced and re-entry into society as law-abiding and productive residents is realized.*

In his capacity as Public Defender, Lloyd has worked tirelessly to promote a better understanding of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. He sees his work as a calling, not as a career choice. He is wholly committed to the principles enshrined in the Constitution and views them as "the bedrock of our country". As a result, he has provided his time and talents to community groups throughout Washtenaw County by appearing and organizing community meetings, as well as speaking to churches and schools, from elementary through law school, about our justice system. The importance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in our justice system is always emphasized and as a result, he has fostered a better understanding and appreciation for the rule of law and instilled a greater respect for law and the courts, while inspiring a deeper sense of individual responsibility. He makes sure that every business card given out by any staff member also contains information about an individual's legal rights and responsibilities.

Lloyd has worked very closely with police departments throughout Washtenaw County to promote awareness and education about racial profiling, advocating a race neutral approach. In the past, he did a presentation on bias awareness before every shift of the City of Ann Arbor Police Department for a twenty-four hour period. For over nine years, Lloyd has presented a public forum during the Washtenaw County Bar Association Bias Awareness Week on "Enhancing Police and Community Trust" (ENPACT). He has garnered the support and participation of virtually every police agency working within Washtenaw County. At ENPACT, a representative from each agency interacts with community members at this yearly gathering, exchanging ideas and information as well as making law enforcement aware of problems or issues within their particular community or the county as a whole. Lloyd also became an early member and advocate of ALPACT, "Advocates and

Leaders for Police and Community Trust”, a multi-county taskforce that is quite active in engendering police and community participation to foster trust and awareness.

During Lloyd Powell’s tenure as Washtenaw County Public Defender, the Office has achieved economic parity with the Washtenaw County Prosecutor, but most importantly, has become a recognized partner in the criminal justice system in this county. The Public Defender has a presence in all programming, policy and procedural committees. As a member of the Public Safety and Justice division of the County, the Public Defender actively participates in the Criminal Justice Collaborative Council which is the primary body involved in criminal justice matters. He is a member of the Community Corrections Advisory Board and the Jail Overcrowding Task Force. The Office is a member of the Judicial Oversight Demonstration Project dealing with domestic violence cases and made a commitment to provide representation on domestic violence offenses post sentencing until case closure. Lloyd works closely with mental health providers for the county, Community Support and Treatment Services, and participated in the creation of a plan to assist, identify and provide services to mentally ill inmates at the Washtenaw County Jail. There is a particularly strong collaboration with a special team of advocates called PORT (Personal OutReach Team) who serve many of the underserved, special needs clients. They assist with mental health information about the client and make alternative sentencing recommendations which prove invaluable for judges in determining sentences. He provides staff to the Street Outreach Court, which serves clients who are primarily homeless and often in need of mental health services. The Court administers collaborative creative alternative sanctions to incarceration.

Lloyd serves on numerous boards of non-profit organizations, and strongly encourages staff to work in the community as well by providing compensatory time for participation in community work. A sample of the organizations Lloyd works with or has a designee includes the statewide Public Defender Task Force, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Fair Housing of Southeast Michigan Board, Legal Services of South Central Michigan, the University of Michigan Bioethics Committee, Gateway Community Project, Student Advocacy Center Board, Breakfast Optimist Club, the Village Initiative, African American Leadership Committee and the Charting Our Future Committee. Lloyd believes that active participation in the community is a vital part of client centered advocacy and will ultimately result, not just in the betterment of our community, but lead to a reduction in crime and recidivism. The goal is to help eliminate some of the problems that have ensnared clients into the criminal justice system. Lloyd strives to see that the Washtenaw County Public Defender office fulfills not only the Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System adopted by the State Bar of Michigan but also the Eleventh Principle, “Advocacy”.

Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie has described Lloyd as a “foot soldier for the Constitution” and noted that Lloyd has spent his entire life in public service. Lloyd’s father was a minister and he learned early on that we are here to serve. Prosecutor Mackie further characterized Lloyd as a “joyous crusader for justice” stating:

“Lloyd is always on the correct side of social issues and tirelessly believes in a person or a cause. You can’t have an event where children want a speaker or kids need money for a program that Lloyd isn’t there. Many kids go to an event because Lloyd bought tickets. If invited to speak to support a cause, especially if kids need a break, Lloyd will help. Lloyd will be there. He talks to new lawyers and helps them navigate the system. He always helps with a real passion. He believes that this is the greatest country on earth but that it can be made better”

In recognition of his many years of distinguished service to the community and his contribution to the effective functioning of our institutions of government, Lloyd E. Powell is nominated to receive the Frank J. Kelly Distinguished Public Service Award.