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**PRESS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

“On January 31, 2017, the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office obtained a copy of a memorandum apparently drafted by former Elkins Police Chief, C. D. Cross to officers of the Elkins Police Department. I cannot condone, in any way, the content of the memorandum. I recognize that our law enforcement officers have an extremely difficult and dangerous job, which has only gotten more difficult and dangerous as of late. It is of paramount importance, however, that our law enforcement officers do their jobs such that each and every citizen’s constitutional rights are protected. Perhaps the sentiments contained in the memorandum are borne out of frustration in attempting to deal with an overwhelming substance abuse epidemic that has resulted in increased crime and has taxed our law enforcement community to its limits. Regardless, we cannot allow frustration to result in ignoring the requirements of the constitution.

I have disclosed a copy of the memorandum to all attorneys who have been identified as representing defendants charged with criminal offenses investigated by the Elkins Police Department, which is required of me by well-settled law. Additionally, I have a duty to uphold both the United States Constitution and the West Virginia Constitution, which I take very seriously. The failure to disclose this memorandum would not have been consistent with that duty.

I am appreciative of the cooperation my office has received from the City of Elkins and the Elkins Police Department in addressing this issue. This type of situation has been quite rare in the five years I have served as Prosecuting Attorney, as we are truly blessed in Randolph County to have extremely dedicated and professional law enforcement officers. I have the utmost confidence that Chief Raffety, with the support of his officers and city officials, will work diligently to ensure that everyone is operating within the confines of the constitution.”

**MICHAEL W. PARKER**  
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