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On November 5<sup>th</sup>, there are two candidates for Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County: Democrat former prosecutor Amy Ashworth and Republican civil litigator Mike May. But there is really only one sound choice –Amy Ashworth.

I am a former Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney and a former elected Commonwealth's Attorney in Northampton County (and on occasion a Special Prosecutor). I have also taught criminal law and criminal procedure at the college level. After 33 years of practice of which 23 were handling criminal and traffic defense in the Manassas courthouse, I retired last year; I still reside in Prince William County as I have for the past 23 years.

I have known Amy for the past 24 years as an excellent prosecutor and trial attorney. In fact, I have been the criminal defense attorney on a number of cases she prosecuted before I retired on inactive status. Amy is a fair but tough prosecutor, level-headed, knowledgeable, and she is a leader.

It is very simple: Amy Ashworth has prosecuted thousands of criminal cases as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Prince William County for 11 years and also defended thousands of criminal cases during the other 13 years; Mr. May has apparently never prosecuted a criminal case in his 15 years as an attorney. In fact, it is also unclear how much criminal defense work he has ever done. In my 23 years locally, I never saw him defend a criminal case in court.

Whom do you want to be the chief law enforcement official for prosecution in the county? Whom do you want prosecuting major cases, supervising more than 20 assistant prosecutors with their cases, managing an office of more than 40 employees, and working cooperatively with federal, state and local agencies on a daily basis? Crime does not wait for someone to learn on- the- job-the Commonwealth's Attorney is expected to, and must, hit the ground running on January 1, 2020. Prosecutors and defense attorneys know with their own eyes that Amy Ashworth can do that; how could anyone truthfully say that about Mr. May?

The best experience to be an effective Commonwealth's Attorney is to have been an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney. And having experience as a criminal defense attorney for felony cases is also an advantage. Amy has both.

Amy is a Democrat, I was elected as an Independent, and I usually vote Republican. But public safety and justice are about more than politics. Based on her experience, her knowledge, and her professionalism, I am completely confident that Amy Ashworth will be the best Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County.

Very truly yours,



Thomas H. Wilson