

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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May 11, 2015

Ms. Dawn E. Sanders-Garrett
Executive Director
Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA)
300 Perry Street
Buffalo, New York 14204

Dear Ms. Sanders-Garrett,

Having received the enclosed correspondence from BMHA Commissioner Mascia regarding recent reductions in security patrols at the Marine Drive Apartments, I write to ask for your assistance in helping me understand the specifics of these changes and its anticipated impacts on public safety.

It is my expectation that the Buffalo Police Department and the leadership at Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) are engaged in a collaborative conversation with your agency as to the coordination of public safety resources for the protection of the Marine Drive residents as well as the general public who continue to visit the Buffalo waterfront in ever increasing numbers.

I look forward to your response as we all share in the commitment to public safety and to providing the most accurate and up to date information to our residents and visitors. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

enc.

cc: Mayor Byron Brown, City of Buffalo
Commissioner Daniel Derenda, Buffalo Police Department
Robert Gioia, Chairman ECHDC
Thomas Dee, President ECHC
Sam Hoyt, Regional President ESDC

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May 11, 2015

Commissioner Daniel Derenda
Department of Police – City of Buffalo
74 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202


Dear Commissioner Derenda,

Having received the enclosed correspondence from BMHA Commissioner Mascia regarding recent reductions in security patrols at the Marine Drive Apartments, I write to ask for your assistance in helping me understand the specifics of these changes and its anticipated impacts on public safety.

It is my expectation that the BMHA and the leadership at Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) are engaged in a collaborative conversation with the Buffalo Police Department as to the coordination of public safety resources for the protection of the Marine Drive residents as well as the general public who continue to visit the Buffalo waterfront in ever increasing numbers.

I look forward to your response as we all share in the commitment to public safety and to providing the most accurate and up to date information to our residents and visitors. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

enc.

cc: Mayor Byron Brown, City of Buffalo
Ms. Dawn Sanders-Garrett, Executive Director BMHA
Robert Gioia, Chairman ECHDC
Thomas Dee, President ECHC
Sam Hoyt, Regional President ESDC

Joseph A. Mascia
47 Marine Drive Apt. 4E
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

May 1, 2015

Congressman Brian Higgins
736 Exchange St. Ste.601
Buffalo, N.Y. 14210

Congressman Higgins,

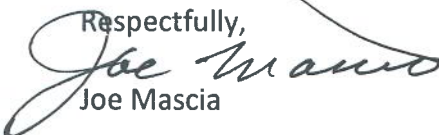
I am writing this letter to make you aware of a situation that is of great concern to the residents of the Marine Drive Apartments and that will very soon become a concern to the guests that will be coming to the waterfront this summer and fall. The Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority has discontinued the security patrol at Marine Drive during the hours of midnight through 4 P.M. Monday through Sunday. This lack of security has led to an increase in late night and daytime crime including drug trafficking in and around the Marine Drive property. It appears that the increase in activity that comes with the events surrounding the waterfront will increase the need for security not only in the event itself but also in the surrounding areas. Apparently it is becoming well known that this type of activity is going on and rest assured that the upcoming events will bring in "event guests" that will be looking for "this type of entertainment". This will undoubtedly spill over into the waterfront events. It is to everyone's best interest to deter this type of activity before it gets out of hand and places the waterfront events in jeopardy.

Let me assure you, it is not the residents of Marine Drive that are causing this activity but the lack of security that we all have been asking to be restored. We have families, elderly and disabled people living here and we do not want to see this type of activity being allowed here. The residents do not want to be associated with this type of activity and are asking for your help. The fault lies with the BMHA and their lack of concern for the residents and the people of WNY.

These activities, of course, are not well publicized so as not to discourage people from coming to the waterfront. Eventually, when enough people are harmed by these crimes, it will be difficult to ignore. Therefore, I am asking for your assistance, on behalf of the Marine Drive residents and the citizens of WNY that will be attending the waterfront events, that you use your influence with the BMHA and encourage them to restore and perhaps increase their security during the summer and fall months to maintain a safe and secure environment for all of the citizens who live in the area and who will be attending the waterfront events.

We would hope that you would be pro-active instead of re-active regarding this matter and do whatever you can for the good of all concerned. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Respectfully,



Joe Mascia

cc: Mayor Byron Brown
Robert Gioia
Thomas Dee
Sam Hoyt