

SUE W. KELLY
19TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, VICE CHAIR
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS, INSURANCE
AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT AND PIPELINES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY
REFORM AND OVERSIGHT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL ENTERPRISES,
AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

January 14, 2004

- PLEASE REPLY TO:
- 1127 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3441
 - 21 OLD MAIN STREET, ROOM #107
FISHKILL, NEW YORK 12524
(845) 897-5200
 - ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
255 MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924
(845) 291-4100
 - 2025 CROMBOND ROAD
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NEW YORK 10598
(814) 962-0761

Mr. Sean K. Kelly
214 Hudson Street
Cornwall On Hudson, New York 12520-1510

Dear Mr. Kelly:

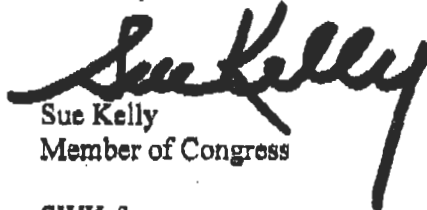
Thank you for contacting me with your opposition to the dismissal of Chief Teresa Chambers of the U.S. Park Police. I appreciate having the opportunity to respond to your views.

As you know, Chief Chambers was placed on leave after she publicly stated that her 620-member force was overstretched and underfunded and that the region's parks and parkways were more dangerous as a result. The Park Service has accused Chambers of making remarks that threatened security, improperly revealing budget details and "improper lobbying" of Congress for funding. Donald Murphy, the Park Service's deputy director, informed Chambers that she had "potentially given aid to those who would seek to harm the very facilities, parks and Parkways that you have been charged with protecting," which he claimed to "constitute an 'open invitation to lawbreakers.'"

Chambers has responded by claiming that the Park Police acted illegally in dismissing her. The U.S. Parks Police informed Chief Chambers on December 17th of their plans to fire her. The Interior Department, which has jurisdiction over the U.S. Parks, plans to make its final decision in the coming days. Please know that I will be paying close attention as we await the federal agencies decision on this important matter.

Once again thank you for contacting me. Please feel free to contact me whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Sue Kelly
Member of Congress

SWK:fm