

DAVID PRICE
4TH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
March 8, 2004

OFFICES:

2702 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1784

PALISADES ON TRINITY
5400 TRINITY PLACE, SUITE 205
RALEIGH, NC 27607-2615
(919) 869-9999

88 VILCOM CENTER, SUITE 140
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514-1680
(919) 967-7924

N.C. MUTUAL PLAZA
411 WEST CHAPEL HILL STREET
DURHAM, NC 27701-3642
(919) 688-3004

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting me concerning the proposed removal of U.S. Park Police Chief Teresa C. Chambers.

Like you, I was very impressed by Chief Chambers' leadership as Chief of Police in Durham. I believe she is an extremely competent and dedicated public servant.

As you know, late last year the National Park Service put Chief Chambers on administrative leave for making public comments about ongoing budget discussions and for lobbying. These alleged violations of agency rules are based on Chief Chambers' responses to direct questions from the media about budget and staffing shortfalls. I share your concern that the Administration is trying to kill the messenger, or at the very least to minimize the existence of staffing shortfalls. I contacted both Director Fran Mainella of the National Park Service and Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and asked that they ensure that Chief Chambers is treated with the utmost fairness. I have enclosed a copy of the response I received from Director Mainella.

There has been a recent positive development in Chief Chambers' case. On February 19, the Washington Post reported that the U.S. Office of Special Counsel has opened an investigation into the proposed dismissal of Chief Chambers. The investigation will determine whether Chief Chambers was improperly stripped of her law enforcement authority and if her statements to the media fall within free speech laws.

I will continue monitoring this issue closely. Thank you again for contacting me. Please continue to stay in touch on issues of concern.

Sincerely,

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

DP:sh

Enclosure