

Kent Fletcher

Durham, NC 27712

May 8, 2004

Mr. Jeffrey K. Taylor, Assistant Director
Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs
US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Ref: L58 (0120)

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your letter of May 5, 2004. I have sent many inquiries to the DOI and NPS and your response is only the second time my inquires have been responded to. Actually, I do not blame you for your inability to respond to my inquiry. It was sent to Secretary Gale Norton and I very much doubt she could be truthful and answer the inquiry either.

I must assume from the wording of your letter that you folks think that Chief Chambers did not **“appropriately”** allege in public or before Congress that the NPS lacked sufficient resources to maintain law and order and protect property within the NPS. I guess you are assuming this even though you say that Mr. Hoffman is “in the midst” of his review process. A little prejudicial don’t you think? Additionally, since I am assured that no disciplinary proceedings have begun, I must assume that you do not consider the stripping of badge, weapon, and police powers and being sent home and told not to talk to the media are in any way disciplinary actions.

I also note with interest that you acknowledge that in heightened states of alert officers are reassigned thus **“reducing the general crime fighting capability.”** Isn’t this what the Chief said which got her suspended?

Am I understanding you correctly when you report that the USPP is responding to the heightened states of alert with little or no use of overtime? Are you sure about this claim? I will do more checking on this, but it doesn’t sound reasonable to me.

A final point is that your assurances that the DOI is “affording Chief Chambers due process, in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the United States” are not so reassuring. Is this the same Constitution which provides for freedom of speech and an employees right to communicate with Congress?

Another questions which has yet to be answered is why was the Chief’s written harassment complaint not forwarded to the Inspector General as per DOI/NPS policy? This letter preceded everything negative which has happened to the Chief and appears the very reason for it.

Again I thank you for your response, however I hope you can now see why I expected a response from someone higher up who could actually respond to these issues. Truth is, I don’t think they can!

Sincerely,

Kent Fletcher

CC: Secretary Gale Norton
Director Fran Mainella