

Office of the Director

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

FEB 26 2004

Mr. .

Dear Mr.

Thank you for your letter of December 14, 2003, to President George W. Bush, regarding the placement of U.S. Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers on administrative leave. We apologize for the delay in our response, but hope you find the information provided useful.

Let me assure you that neither the National Park Service (NPS) nor the Department of the Interior has begun disciplinary proceedings against any employee who has appropriately alleged in public or before Congress any lack of resources necessary to maintain law and order and protect property within the NPS. As you perhaps know, Ms. Teresa Chambers has responded in writing to Deputy Assistant Secretary Paul Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman is the reviewing official in this personnel matter and is in the midst of this process as of this writing.

We understand that there have been questions concerning the impact that round-the-clock patrols of our national monuments have had on the availability of Park Police to carry out other aspects of their law enforcement mission. When there is a heightened state of alert, officers are assigned to protect such national icons as the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial or the Lincoln Memorial. In addition, we have responsibilities at both anchorages of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Currently, we are meeting these needs with little or no use of overtime. The result is reduced visibility of uniformed personnel in certain parks. Plainclothes tactical units are also pressed into uniformed duty at the icons, further reducing our general crime fighting capability. The numbers of officers protecting these sites is law enforcement sensitive.

I want to assure you that the Department is affording Chief Chambers due process, in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the United States. You may rest assured she will receive full and fair consideration in her case. The Department does not wish to compromise either its position in a personnel matter, nor jeopardize the rights of employees in such matters by trying

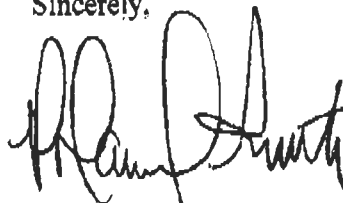
Mr.

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those matters in the press or before Congress. This decision now rests with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

Your continued support of the National Park Service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fran P. Mainella', written in a cursive style.

FOL

Fran P. Mainella
Director