



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58 (0120)

JAN 20 2004

JAN 28 2004

Honorable George Allen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Allen:

This responds to your December 16, 2003, letter to Mr. David Bernhardt, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, United States Department of the Interior (DOI). I would like to thank you for your interest and patience in this matter as we prepared the information you requested. My Deputy Director, Donald Murphy, who oversees the United States Park Police (USPP), and my Congressional Affairs Office have worked together on this matter and on the response to your letter.

In this letter and the attached note from one of your constituents, Ms. Paula Woods, you expressed concern over the disciplinary action taken against the USPP Chief Teresa Chambers for publicly acknowledging deficiencies in the USPP division. Let me assure you that neither the National Park Service (NPS) nor the U.S. 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 protect property within the NPS and maintain law and order. Please let me further assure you that the parks and our visitors are being protected by the USPP.

I want to assure you that the DOI is affording Chief Chambers due process, in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the United States. There can be no action on the proposal until at least 30 days have passed from Chief Chambers' receipt of the proposal. This decision now rests with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Paul Hoffman. Before the decision-maker acts on the proposal, the Chief will have the opportunity to respond to Mr. Murphy's letter both in writing and orally. You may rest assured she will receive full and fair consideration in her case. As you are no doubt aware, the DOI does not wish to compromise either its position in a personnel matter, nor jeopardize the rights of employees in such matters by trying those matters in the press or before Congress.

Thank you for your continued interest in the National Park Service and for giving us the opportunity to respond to your and Ms. Paula Woods' concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fran P. Mainella".

Fran P. Mainella
Director