

JOHN WARNER
VIRGINIA

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United States Senate

February 10, 2004

225 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4601
(202) 224-2023
<http://warner.senate.gov>

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICES:

4900 WORLD TRADE CENTER
101 WEST MAIN STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23510-1690
(757) 441-3079

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600 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219-3538
(804) 771-2579

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P.O. BOX 887
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(276) 628-8158

1003 FIRST UNION BANK BUILDING
213 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
ROANOKE, VA 24011-1714
(540) 857-2676

Dear Mr.

Thank you for contacting me regarding the National Park Service's proposed disciplinary actions against U.S. Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers. I appreciate hearing your views on this matter.

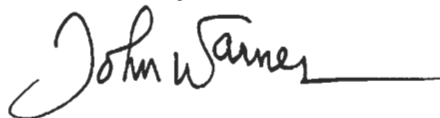
As you mentioned, Teresa Chambers, a 27-year police veteran, was placed on administrative leave from the Park Police in December after making public comments regarding internal budget matters. Specifically, Chief Chambers cited to the media that in order for the force to handle a greater workload, the Park Police would need an increase of budget and workforce. She stated that her 620-member police force was overstretched and underfunded and that the region's parks and parkways were more dangerous as a result. The Park Service notified her December 17th of their intention to fire her for making remarks that threatened security, improperly revealed budget details and improperly lobbied Congress for funding. Chief Chambers has the opportunity to respond to these allegations.

The Department of Interior will have final say as to the action taken against the Police Chief. However, I can assure you that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which has oversight of the National Park Service, is reviewing the matter and has asked that the Interior Department not take further action until they have had the opportunity to complete review of the charges. Although I am not a member of this committee, please be assured I am aware of this matter and will share your views with my colleagues.

Again, I appreciate hearing your concerns on this unfortunate matter, and will continue to stay abreast of any further actions. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



John Warner

JW/krw