

FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



LOCAL No. 36
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of FIRE FIGHTERS



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Secretary

December 22, 2003

Chief Teresa C. Chambers
United States Park Police
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chief Chambers:

On behalf of the District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association, Local 36, of the International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, I want to commend you for your courage in stating publicly that your agency is understaffed, impacting on the safety of your officers and the citizens, workers and visitors to the Nation's Capital.

And what was the response by government officials to your alert?

You are ordered to the Department of the Interior where, as armed guards stand by, you are placed on leave and ordered to surrender your badge and weapon. How appalling, that because of your efforts to save lives, and prevent acts of terrorism at many of our National Treasurers, would result in your being publicly humiliated and held up to ridicule.

What is so disturbing is that your potential dismissal is coming from an administration that is allegedly pro public safety.

Who can forget President Bush, during the State of the Union Address following September 11, 2001, when he recognized Arlene Howard, mother of New York Port Authority Police Officer George Howard. Holding up the deceased officer's badge, President Bush remarked, "And I will carry this. It is the police shield of a man named George Howard, who died at The World Trade Center trying to save others. It was given to me by his mom, Arlene, as a proud memorial to her son. It is my reminder of lives that ended and a task that does not end."

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL

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And the task the president spoke of hasn't ended. It continues on today with the members of the United States Park Police integral members of the Metropolitan Washington Area Public Safety Family. Working together, police and fire departments are making sure that the task doesn't end.

Again, I commend you for speaking out truthfully concerning the needs of your agency. I can only hope that once the word of your possible dismissal reaches 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW that you will be fully vindicated and your police powers restored.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond Sneed". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Raymond Sneed
President