



January 22, 2003

Mr. Robert Meegan
President
Buffalo Police Benevolent Association
74 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Mr. Meegan:

On behalf of the 3,500 businesses that comprise the membership of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and the 200,000 workers our members employ throughout the region, we are extremely concerned about the various roadblocks and traffic stops at key thoroughfares in the city being implemented by the Buffalo Police Department.

We know your members are hardworking, dedicated and committed to the general welfare of the city, but these actions are only reinforcing the image of the PBA as being impervious to the economic realities facing our great city. Attempting to settle disputes you have with the city – including the use of one-officer patrol cars, which the Partnership supports – should not come at the expense of working men and women.

Let us not forget that there is an economic impact to these tactics in that preventing people from getting to their jobs on time costs our economy money. That is not good for the city of Buffalo and ultimately cannot be good for your members who want equitable pay for their work. And of course, this certainly does not help improve Buffalo's image across the country at a time when we are trying to promote this region as a great place to locate a business.

Instead of disrupting the lives of the hardworking citizens of the region who are only trying to go to and from work, you should be protecting the people and neighborhoods in the city which need public safety services the most. Taking out your frustrations on the very people that employ your members – the taxpayers – is a strategy we respectfully would ask you to reconsider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Rudnick', written over a white background.

Andrew J. Rudnick
President and CEO