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October 29, 2012

The Honorable Betty Jean Grant
Chair of the Erie County Legislature
790 East Delavan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14215

RE: NFTA Board of Commissioners

Dear Madame Chair:

As you know, James J. Eagan has resigned as a member of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Board of Commissioners. The Governor will appoint a person to fill the vacancy based on the Legislature's recommendation. I would like to be considered for this appointment.

I moved to Buffalo in 1976 to attend the University of Buffalo. As a college student, I had little money, but always had an envelope full of bus tokens. By simply using a bus token, I had the independence and freedom to discover Buffalo's neighborhoods, as well as its cultural and architectural treasures.

Those tokens opened many doors for me. As a freshman, I took the NFTA #8 bus to Court Street so I could walk to Buffalo City Hall and accept an internship with the Department of Community Development. In the summer and fall of 1977, I worked part-time for the City's Department of Community Development and Department of Transportation, where I assisted in collecting information for an environmental impact study relating to the construction of the light rail rapid transit. The following year, I was hired by the Buffalo Common Council and assigned to the Economic Development Committee. I benefited from these positions only because I had access to public transportation.

In 1979, I became a Neighborhood Project Manager with the City's Division of Neighborhood Revitalization. My neighborhood project areas included University Heights, North Buffalo, Kensington-Bailey, Riverside-Black Rock, Fillmore-Leroy, Delavan-Grider, and Parkside. In my role as a Project Manager, I was responsible for developing a five-year plan for funding housing, commercial and capital improvement projects for these neighborhoods. The five-year plans also identified

public facilities and resources available to neighborhood residents and businesses, including the access to public transportation.

In 1988, I became an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the City's Law Department. During my tenure with the Law Department, I became the City's chief environmental attorney. I also provided advice and counsel to the Buffalo Common Council, the Buffalo Housing Authority, the Buffalo Sewer Authority, the Buffalo Board of Education and other municipal departments, boards and agencies. I was often asked to provide opinions relating to waterfront development, including the City's reversion interest in waterfront land currently held by the NFTA. At the direction of the City's Department of Inspection and Licenses, I successfully brought litigation against the developers of the Shooters Restaurant who had leased waterfront property from the NFTA, but were ordered to comply with the City's building, inspection, and licensing ordinances.

In 1992, I was appointed and then elected to the Buffalo City Court bench. Since leaving the bench in 2002, I have been in private practice. One area of my practice focuses on governmental affairs and public policy and, more specifically, advising and/or challenging governmental bodies as to the constitutional and statutory limitations on their exercise of authority.

Given my background, I hope you and other members of the Legislature would agree I would be a suitable candidate for appointment to the NFTA's Board of Commissioners. During our brief phone conversation, you advised me the Legislature would interview interested candidates before making its recommendation to the Governor. I look forward to discussing my qualifications with the members of the Legislature at their earliest convenience. However, I do want to advise you that I will be out-of-town between November 2 and November 15. Otherwise, I will make myself available to speak whenever you decide to schedule these interviews with members of the Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Margaret A. Murphy

MARGARET A. MURPHY

cc All Members of the Erie County Legislature