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DAVID A. RIVERA
 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
 NIAGARA DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER

65 NIAGARA SQUARE, 1504 City Hall
 BUFFALO, NY 14202-3318

PHONE: (716) 851-5125 • FAX: (716) 851-4970
 E-mail: darivera@ch.ci.buffalo.ny.us.

SUSPENSION

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Eric County Legislature
 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
 Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

RE: Community Advisory Board

February 16, 2011

Dear Legislators:

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you and your Legislative colleagues for allowing me to address your honorable body during the organizational meeting of the Community Advisory Board yesterday. I appreciate the time you afforded me to speak regarding the composition of the board. As the Niagara District Councilmember, I am very passionate about finding solutions to the challenges we face in the Erie County Holding Center and Corrections Facility.

As you may know, prior to seeking elected office, I spent years with Buffalo Police Department. Because of my experience as patrol officer and detective sergeant I intimately understand the challenges associated with our incarceration system. While I have retired from the police force to serve on the Common Council, I remain seriously committed to the well-being of the prisoners, their families, and the hard-working employees in the system.

I applaud you and your colleagues for taking this important step to create and empower an advisory board. However, I remain deeply concerned that there is no representation from the Hispanic community. I assure you our community stands ready and willing to participate as a part of the solution. I fear that without proper representation from the Hispanic community, this board will be seen as illegitimate in the eyes of the Hispanic Community and will not provide the transformative solutions our community so desperately needs. I implore you and your colleagues to expeditiously amend the resolution to specifically include the Hispanic community.

Again, I appreciate your consideration of this request and am available at your convenience to speak further with you or any other Legislator. I can be reached directly at 851.5125.

Sincerely,

David Rivera

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