

May 11, 2011

Legislator Kevin R. Hardwick,  
92 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Legislator Hardwick,

I am writing this letter to express concern about the use of excessive force by the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority Police against anti-war protestors that occurred in Buffalo, New York. The April incident is not the first of this type, but I sincerely hope it will be the last. Furthermore, charges were placed against the three protestors.

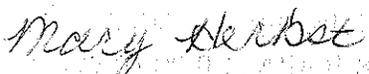
Freedom of speech and of assembly is a right of all Americans guaranteed by the First Amendment. William O. Douglas warned us, "Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us."

The panel to review this incident should not be decided by the NFTA. It needs to be a Civilian Review Board that investigates, impartially and independently of the NFTA in order to determine accountability. One protestor, Nate Buckley was assaulted with mace at close range while being restrained. It would seem to me, that if the NFTA has nothing to hide, it would be in their best interest to have this type of substantial civilian review.

The charges against the three protestors must be dropped to protect the rights of all Americans.

I would appreciate your response in this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mary Herbst  
3258 East River Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072