ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

July 1, 2013

Dear Community Stakeholder:

To date, the City of Buffalo has been the site of 16 homicides in 2013, most of which transpired in the 1st and 2nd county legislative districts. By any measure, this is a community crisis of epic proportion. On behalf of the residents of Buffalo and Erie County, I would like to invite you to participate in the "Summit on Violent Crime and Homicide in Buffalo, New York" to be held as follows:

Date:	**Wednesday, July 17, 2013**
Time:	**5:30 – 7:45 p.m.**
Location:	**Frank E. Merriweather Library, 1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo**

The first and most important function of government is public safety. Government is not the cause of this violence, but it falls to government to offer workable solutions. These solutions can work only when the community is fully engaged.

The "Summit on Violent Crime and Homicide in Buffalo, New York" will bring together elected and appointed officials from all three levels and all three branches of government – executive, legislative and judicial, as well as community leaders, anti-violence groups and the law enforcement community – to listen and learn about the community's desire to be engaged. The community can play a decisive role in offering suggestions and solutions that are supported by sound research. We can learn from the best practices and successful initiatives in other cities that have made progress in restoring public safety. In turn, the community will be informed of the government collaborations already underway and under development to address this blight on Buffalo.

It won't be easy. But the conversation is necessary. There are neighborhoods in Buffalo whose health, safety and socioeconomic statistics rival that of war-torn, third world countries. Nation building starts with neighborhood building. The first step is neighborhood safety. We all agree that the carnage has to stop, and it falls on law enforcement and the criminal justice system to be the first responders, prosecutors and dispensers of justice. We can also agree that prevention is preferable, but it will take the entire community to be engaged with this process.

Please make effort to attend this vitally important community conversation.

Sincerely,

Betty Jean Grant, Chair
Erie County Legislature
2nd District Legislator

Timothy R. Hogues, Chair
Public Safety Committee
1st District Legislator