



ECLEO MAY13/14 PM 2:50

## ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**HON. JOSEPH C. LORIGO**

**10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATOR**

**MAJORITY LEADER**

May 13, 2014

Hon. John J. Mills  
Chairman of the Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Legislative Chambers  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Comptroller's Letter**

Dear Chairman Mills:

This morning, I read the terrible story on the front page of The Buffalo News about Ms. Steff, an elderly woman that was abused at the hands of a loved one. According to the article, she was denied food and medical care, and forced to sleep in a barn like an animal. The article inferred that she was a client of Adult Protective Services and that the Erie County Sheriff's Office was involved in her rescue.

Later this morning I received an e-mail from our County Comptroller that included a copy of a letter he sent us this morning. His letter calls on us to enact an independent committee to further investigate what happened to Ms. Steff and to go further and look into the operations of Social Services and how they care for their clients. As legislators, we are ultimately responsible for ensuring our constituents get proper care from Erie County government. As a new father, I have a deepened appreciation for caring for those who cannot care for themselves.

It seems to me that too often we are put in a position of learning via the news media that someone we represent has been placed in harm's way. This is not to say that it is the fault of the County, but it may be an area that needs more of our attention as legislators. I am writing to encourage you to form the special committee, and to express my interest in serving on it. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph C. Lorigo".

Joseph C. Lorigo  
Erie County Legislator and Majority Leader  
District 10

cc: Hon. Betty Jean Grant, Minority Leader  
Hon. Lynne M. Dixon, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee

**OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

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