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Heath, Nancy

From: Susan L
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 5:54 PM
To: Mills, Hon. John
Cc: Miller-Williams, Barbara; Grant, Betty; Savage, Peter; Hardwick, Hon. Kevin; Loughran, Thomas; Rath, Hon. Edward; Burke, Hon. Patrick; Morton, Hon. Ted; Dixon, Hon. Lynne; Lorigo, Joseph; Musarra, Arthur
Subject: Buffalo Urban League

June 7, 2016

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to you in regard to the complaint submitted to the Erie County Legislature in May of 2016 by Brian and Tammy Sheldon as it pertains to the Buffalo Urban League.

As one of the eight whistleblowers who requested the contract compliance review of the Buffalo Urban League in November 2014, I could not help but be struck by the similarities between the Sheldon's letter and our original complaint. Let me highlight some of those similarities for you if you have not already made the connections for yourselves:

"They contend that this accounting error – tallied $2809.94 in overpayment and must be repaid."

"Again and again this child's needs have been neglected."

"...Complaint of retaliatory actions by the Buffalo Urban League."

"...Buffalo Urban (sic) tainting the real issues and smearing our name as a retaliatory tactic."

"...The Buffalo Urban League were the ones being negligent and uncooperative."

"...Where the Buffalo Urban League can continue to dismissively act in such an unprofessional manner."

Sound familiar? I know. It did to us whistleblowers, too.

What I would like to know is; what is the Erie County Legislature going to do about it? How long are you willing to let the Buffalo Urban League continue to mismanage county funds while not appropriately servicing the children and families of Erie County? How many more employees/clients/families need to come forward before the Erie County Legislature collectively decides that it is time to take action?

It has been almost five months since the whistleblowers addressed the legislature regarding our original complaint and no action has been taken. I understand that the Buffalo Urban League's threat and then follow through with a lawsuit against the County Comptroller and Erie County itself made you all wet your pants a little and back off while waiting for the outcome of said lawsuit but in the meantime the Buffalo Urban League administration continues to run amok; trying to stick their fingers in all the holes in the dyke; creating excuse after excuse for why their programs are mismanaged and why the same upper level management has been able to remain in place despite all the serious problems that have been brought to light. This whole process has been an abomination and at this point, members of the Erie County Legislature should be ashamed of themselves for their startling lack of concern regarding this agency.

I have reached out to the Sheldons with this letter and have let them know that if the Erie County Legislature does not take action, and will not assist them in bringing this to the state level as they requested, then the original whistleblowers will be more than happy to help them in doing so.

Sincerely,

Susan Looby