

Susan Looby

• Amherst, New York 14221 •

September 2, 2016

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to you yet again to address the ongoing Buffalo Urban League situation.

As I am sure you are all well aware, State Supreme Court Justice Tracey Bannister has recently dismissed the Buffalo Urban League's lawsuit against the Erie County Comptroller regarding the comptroller's contract compliance review of the Buffalo Urban League.

Now that the lawsuit has been dismissed, it is time for the Erie County Legislature to finally make a decision as to what actions need to be taken to address the findings reported in the comptroller's review.

I would like to remind each and every one of you of the timeline involved here. Eight Urban League employees requested this review in November of 2014 - almost two years ago. I would also like to remind you that, because of delay tactics by the Urban League administration, that review was unable to be completed until December 2015 - more than one year later. Furthermore, it has been nine months since everyone involved in the situation went before the Erie County Legislature to address the review in January 2016. Two months later, in March 2016, more delays were created by the Urban League administration with the announcement of their frivolous lawsuit. The hearing regarding their lawsuit was held in July of 2016, and a ruling was not made until September 2016. In all that time, the Urban League has been allowed to operate in their business as usual manner to the detriment of their clients, as well as Erie County taxpayers. A fact that cannot be ignored given that several Urban League foster families have come forward in that time requesting the Erie County Legislature's help in addressing similar concerns to those in our original complaint but regarding the agency's foster care program.

At the very least, if the Urban League is going to be allowed to continue operating both their preventive services and foster care programs, they should only be allowed to do so with heavy monitoring by the county and/or state agencies who oversee those programs and who they receive their operating funds from. It should also be requested that they submit a plan of corrective action to the legislature that addresses the findings of the comptroller's review. Additionally, I would expect the Erie County Legislature to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding the Erie County Department of Social Services Preventive Services contract as

there are several agencies within Erie County that have proven they are far better able to manage a contract of this magnitude.

The Erie County Legislature is no longer in a position to ignore the concerns that have been brought to their attention by not only Urban League employees but also by community members who open up their lives and their homes to the children of the Erie County community. To this point, your non-action is the equivalent to giving all of us who have come forward the finger - just another way of saying, "Too bad. We don't care. If we ignore it long enough, it will just go away." I can assure you, as I did in my last letter to you, that we will make sure this does not go away and that we are prepared to take this to the state level if the Erie County Legislature cannot or will not perform the duty assigned to them - protecting the citizens of Erie County whom they are sworn to serve.

I respectfully request that this letter be submitted as public record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Looby