



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

KENNETH P. ZEBROWSKI
Assemblyman 96th District
Rockland County

CHAIRMAN
Committee on
Governmental Operations

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Rules
Ways and Means
Judiciary
Government Employees
Ethics and Guidance

March 30, 2021

Mr. John Howard, Interim Chair
Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Chairman Howard:

I am writing you regarding the tragic fire that occurred on March 23rd at the Evergreen Court Home for Adults located at 65 Lafayette Street in the Village of Spring Valley.

The fire, which burned down the entire adult care facility, resulted in two fatalities, a resident and a volunteer firefighter. It is being reported that low water pressure hindered the efforts of the over 26 different volunteer fire departments that responded to the fire. The low water pressure prevented the use of nearby fire hydrants. The firefighters responded to this problem by running hoses nearly two-thirds of a mile down the road to access hydrants on Route 45 with adequate water pressure. There are some reports that the low water pressure has been a persistent problem in this area for some time. The concerns surrounding the inadequate pressure at these hydrants slowed the fire response and potentially put lives at risk.

I am requesting that the Public Service Commission, in conjunction with Suez, investigate the cause of low water pressure in this area. In addition, the investigation should identify other locations within their service area with significant water pressures issues that could impact the use of fire hydrants. Furthermore, if the low water pressure is a result of development in the area that has overtaxed the water supply, the Commission should broaden the investigation to consider how local development decisions should be regulated if they are incompatible with critical infrastructure capabilities.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at zebrowskik@nyassembly.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Zebrowski
Member of Assembly

Cc: Hon. Amy Paulin, Chair, Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions