



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 14, 2021

Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw
Office of the Comptroller
95 Franklin Street – 11th floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Comptroller Mychajliw,

I am writing in regard to your letter dated yesterday, October 13, 2021, which regrettably you have already publicized through your social media channels. Below you will find responses from the Department of Social Services to your stated concerns:

1. Above all, I am asking that you please **have the facts** before you make a public report regarding the actions of the Department of Social Services (“DSS”). DSS has **not** placed vulnerable families where there are registered sex offenders; our Department informed you of this in March 2019 and we find ourselves forced to inform you again today. Your apparent issue is with the data base that you selected to search in 2019 and again this week. If there is a discrepancy between that data base and the Erie County Sheriff’s Office (“ECSO”) resources that we rely on, perhaps your office can pursue that with NYS.
2. As stated above, we advised you more than two years ago that DSS does **not** make any placements of families in need of temporary emergency housing at any hotels where there are registered sex offenders. Our Department confirmed with both the hotel you erroneously visited this week and the ECSO that the person you identified **did not** reside at the hotel. The ECSO confirmed the individual’s correct address and also directed our Department to use <http://www.icrimewatch.net/index.php?AgencyID=54107> to access the most up-to-date information on this. We are continuing to work with our local Sheriff’s Office, which has the best on-the-ground intelligence regarding the location of registered sex offenders.
3. To be clear, please be advised once again that **DSS has not made any placements of women and children in emergency shelter placements with any record of registered sex offenders residing at the same address.** We consistently use the tools provided by the ECSO to confirm residences of registered sex offenders **before** we make any placement of women and children. Please see the attached record, from the above website, that **does not list any** registered sex offenders at the address listed in your letter. Finally, please note that victims of domestic violence are placed at specific shelters that serve only victims of domestic violence. **In order to keep them safe, this is an undisclosed location.**

Comptroller Mychajliw, in the future please get the facts before making specious and damaging public attacks on our Department and our personnel. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie A. Cannon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Marie A. Cannon, Commissioner
Erie County Department of Social Services