MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF S.5306-A Kennedy / A.7574-A Peoples-Stokes

Open Buffalo and the below-signed partner organizations strongly support the passage of this legislation.

This bill amends the vehicle and traffic law to create a new Section 1640-o, authorizing the City of Buffalo to adopt a residential parking system in the historic and predominantly African-American Fruit Belt neighborhood.

Open Buffalo is a civic initiative to make major, long-term improvements in justice and equity; it is an unprecedented collaboration among a diverse group of partners; and it is one of three projects in the nation chosen for the Open Places Initiative of the Open Society Foundations.

Parking has been a major challenge for residents of the Fruit Belt due to the overwhelming number of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) employees parking on their streets, resulting in traffic hazards, congestion, and air and noise pollution. On behalf of Open Buffalo and the below-signed partner organizations and community groups, we are in support of a fair parking permit program in the Fruit Belt and Bill Numbers A.7574-A / S.5306-A.

The shortage of available parking spaces on the medical campus should be addressed through employer incentive programs for alternative transportation, including employer-paid public transportation vouchers, and not by sacrificing residents’ ability to park safely in front of their homes.

For these reasons, Open Buffalo and the below-signed partner organizations urge the adoption of S.5306-A / A.7574-A.

Sincerely,
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Harvil Hill and Sandy Campbell-Hill  
President and Secretary  
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