



Thursday, November 20, 2008

The Honorable Gerald D. Jennings
Albany City Hall
24 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207

Mayor Jennings,

Today marks one month since Richard Bailey was murdered, just two blocks from my home. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the kind phone call shortly after the shooting, the Neighborhood Association was very grateful. There has been an immense reaction both within and around the neighborhood in response to this tragedy.

On November 2nd, 2008 the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association hosted a community forum in our neighborhood, with participation from several surrounding neighborhoods. While the meeting was put together promptly, the level of concern in the community was very clearly reflected in the turnout. The purpose of the meeting was to gather concerns, brainstorm solutions, and ask both what we can do as a community and what we need from City Government.

I am very appreciative that you offered to address the community. While there was some initial pressure for an immediate meeting with our City officials, we decided it would be prudent to give the Albany Police Department ample time to conduct an investigation. Having taken some time to compile our concerns as a community, I am submitting those ideas to you for consideration prior to a meeting with our neighbors; we look forward to your responses.

We are hopeful that this meeting can be conducted during the first week of December, before getting too close to the holiday season. There are plenty of great venues in our neighborhood, both St. Vincent's and the VI Community Center come to mind. One of the primary concerns raised by neighbors was the importance of assuring access to all in the community, including adequate parking.

Attached, you will find an organized list of concerns raised over the past several weeks. We look forward to having this open forum, with the opportunity for the City of Albany to address these concerns. The Pine Hills Neighborhood is excited to partner in hosting this meeting and working towards a safer Albany. My mobile number is (585) 414-6278 and is the easiest way to get in touch, short of e-mail – which is: Daniel.Curtis.Albany@gmail.com.

Regards,

Daniel C. Cutis
President, *Pine Hills Neighborhood Association*
580 Myrtle Avenue, Albany.

CC: Common Council President Morris, Chief of Police Tuffey, Common Council Member Scalzo, Common Council Member Casey.