



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION

May 19, 2021

Lt. Governor John Fetterman  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
200 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Lt. Governor Fetterman, Senator Laughlin, and Representative Bizzarro:

Thank you for your letter of May 14<sup>th</sup>. We at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission appreciate your enthusiasm and support for Erie Maritime Museum and the Flagship Niagara.

PHMC is passionate about providing experiences grounded in history to citizens across the commonwealth. As Pennsylvanians begin to travel and participate in more public activities, we recognize that many will still want to stay close to home. We appreciate, especially at this moment in time, that PHMC's museums afford commonwealth residents opportunities to engage in entertaining and educational programming that is nearby. We also realize that the Flagship is an attraction for Erie far beyond the borders of Pennsylvania. For all these reasons, we are eager to make the ship available to the public once again.

As you all know, the public health landscape has been rapidly changing. The approach outlined in our public response was one developed between PHMC and the Flagship Niagara League (FNL) in early April. However, in light of the most recent updates to the state's mitigation measures and Flagship Niagara League's ability to find housing for their crew and volunteers in Erie, the PHMC and FNL agree that the ship can be uncovered. We are currently working with the FNL to schedule the removal of the cover.

Once uncovered, visitors can view the ship from the dockside. However, before the public can board the ship, it must go for inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard. PHMC and the FNL will be working together to ensure the Coast Guard inspection is scheduled as soon as possible.

As mentioned above, prior to inspection, interpretation of the Niagara will be managed from the dock. However, the public will have the ability to board another ship berthed at the Museum, the Lettie G. Howard. Visitors may also participate in daysails on the Lettie G. Howard as the FNL's sail schedule for that ship allows.

Please let us know if you have further questions. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Lowery".

Andrea Lowery  
Executive Director