

Concerns Regarding PHMC Hiring Process for Niagara Captain

From: Steven Perry [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Bcc: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 11:37 AM EDT

Hello Andrea and Melissa,

I am writing to you today regarding some concerns about U.S. Brig *Niagara*. In particular, I am concerned with some rumors about how the hiring process for *Niagara's* Captain is proceeding. According to these rumors, a candidate that was interviewed is the son of [REDACTED] and is likely a friend of Erie Maritime Museum Site Administrator, Jim Hall. In light of the position not being posted publicly, I am concerned that PHMC may be committing cronyism/nepotism in the hiring process. In order to combat certain accusations, my understanding is that it is common practice for state agencies to publicly post their positions, even if they are not civil service positions. Would you be able to provide any details on how PHMC is ensuring that the state is not committing any sort of favoritism in their hiring process for *Niagara's* future Captain? What policies are in place to ensure that no form of cronyism, nepotism, or favoritism is being committed? Are you willing to provide any details on how the position was advertised and how candidates were selected in order to ensure that the position was fairly open and available, without any candidates or potential candidates receiving special treatment? I want to ensure the best candidates are able to apply and be considered for the position so that *Niagara* can have the best Captain possible.

Separately, as far as I can tell in 2009 when PHMC was facing financial difficulties, the previous crew was not laid off. Instead they were furloughed. While it has been 15 years since that event, did PHMC offer the position to former *Niagara* Captain Wesley Heerssen due to his furloughed status?

Don't Give Up The Ship!
Steven