CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN

MAYOR

April 12, 2010

Tadeusz Ferenc
Mayor
City of Rzeszow
Rynek 1
Rzeszow, Poland
35-064

Dear Mayor Ferenc:

As Mayor of the City of Buffalo and on behalf of all the citizens of our City, it is with the deepest sympathy and sorrow that I extend condolences to you, the citizens of Rzeszow and through them to all of Poland. This is a tragedy of unprecedented scale to an ally that has stood shoulder to shoulder with America for many years. Poland's contribution and fight for its own freedom are well known. The Polish expression "For your freedom and ours" very well embodies this love of liberty and democracy. The men and women who perished in Smolensk embodied the best of this love of freedom and democracy. They stood strong in their love of country and love of democracy. We pray for likeminded individuals to carry forth their torch.

Buffalo and Rzeszow have enjoyed very warm relations for many years going back to our beginnings in 1976. We have had many cultural, civic, government and educational exchanges over the years. Whenever Buffalonians visit Rseszow we are warmly and generously received both in your office and throughout the city. Your hospitality is one of a kind. Our past support of Dom Dzieczka, CARITAS, Dom Samotnej Matki and the annual visits of Pomost are well known to you. And this year we are entering a new era of cooperation with you. We look forward to educational, business and cultural exchanges over the next 12 months. In addition, there are several generations of Buffalonians who have moved here from Rzeszow and still call Rzeszow their first home. They have added a richness and diversity to our great city.

The right words are not easy to know at a time like this. But, please know that my prayers and those of all Buffalonians will be expressed especially during this week of national mourning in several ways.

Yes, the legacy of Poland working in solidarity with America is a long one. And the legacy of Rzeszow working with Buffalo is now 34 years old and strong. It will grow even stronger through this tragedy.

Respectfully,

Byron W. Brown

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Mayor

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