



THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Session No. 2
JANUARY 16, 2025

Timothy J. Meyers
Chair

John J. Gilmour
Majority Leader

John J. Mills
Minority Leader

Olivia M. Owens
Clerk of the Legislature

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION: Mr. Dupre

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Greene

TABLED ITEMS: [Rules of the Legislature for 2025](#)

ITEMS FOR RECONSIDERATION FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: [Meeting No. 1](#)

PUBLIC HEARING

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS:

MAJORITY CAUCUS	Recognizing Birth Defects Awareness Month
MAJORITY CAUCUS	Recognizing National Poverty Awareness Month
DUPRE	Acknowledging and Honoring Merryl Tengesdal
ST. JEAN TARD & VINAL	Recognizing Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
ST. JEAN TARD	Acknowledging and Honoring Karen New Year
ST. JEAN TARD	Honoring Bessie Patterson at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
KOOSHOIAN	Congratulating St. Joes Head Coach Mike Corona - The Buffalo News Coach of the Year
KOOSHOIAN	Honoring and Recognizing Elijah Kimble - 2024 Dick Gallagher Buffalo News Player of the Year
VINAL	Celebrating and Honoring National India Republic Day
GREENE & VINAL	Honoring and Thanking Jon Kemp for His 50 Years of Service With Main-Transit Fire Hall
GREENE	Honoring and Thanking Michael Burkhardt for 60 Years of Service to Clarence Fire Company

GREENE	Honoring and Thanking Brother Edward Lewis for 50 Years of Service with the Clarence Fire Company
GREENE	Honoring and Thanking Nathaniel Huck for His Contributions to Ten Lives Club
GREENE	Honoring and Thanking Chief Christopher Kaplewicz for 16 Years of Dedicated Service
TODARO	Recognizing Ricky Andres on His 100th Career Win as a Lancaster Legend Varsity Wrestler
TODARO	Congratulating Lily Iozzia on Being Named Monsignor Martin Player of the Year in Girls Soccer
TODARO	Congratulating Carson Tyler on Being Named New York State Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year
LORIGO	Recognizing Al Roberts for 35 Years of Service to the Blossom Volunteer Fire Company
LORIGO	Recognizing Leah Nolan Torres on Her Election to 3rd Assistant Chief of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
LORIGO	Recognizing Charles Bethge for 55 Years of Service to the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company
LORIGO	Recognizing J. Jay Gnojek for 40 Years of Service to the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company
LORIGO	Recognizing the West Seneca Woman's Club as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Community Service Organization of the Year
LORIGO	Recognizing Claudia Emmerson as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Citizen of the Year
LORIGO	Recognizing the West Seneca Art Society as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Chamber Member of the Year
LORIGO	Recognizing Sgroi Lawley as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Business of the Year

LORIGO	Recognizing Sydney Sterlace as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Gerald Hathaway Young Entrepreneur of the Year
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LORIGO	Recognizing Gail Bielanin as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Educator of the Year
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LORIGO	Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of West Seneca during World Kiwanis Week
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LORIGO	Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Springville during World Kiwanis Week
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LORIGO	Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Holland during World Kiwanis Week
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LORIGO	Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Wales during World Kiwanis Week
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LORIGO	Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of East Aurora during World Kiwanis Week
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LORIGO	Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Elma during World Kiwanis Week
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LORIGO	Recognizing Michael Rauff for 15 Years of Service to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
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LORIGO	Recognizing Ryan Skipper for 5 Years of Service to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
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MILLS	Honoring the Original American Kazoo Company of Eden, New York
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MILLS	In Recognition of National Milk Day, and Richmond Farms Dairy of North Collins, NY
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MILLS	In Recognition of National Milk Day, and Mammoser Farms of Eden, NY
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LOCAL LAWS:

LL INTRO. 2-1 (2024)	LORIGO	The Tax Dollar Disclosure Act	Finance & Management
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LL INTRO. 3-1 (2024)	LORIGO	The Meetings Transparency Act	Finance & Management
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LL INTRO. 5-2 (2024)	BARGNESI	Amending the Erie County Charter in Relation to Term Lengths and Term Limits	Government Affairs
LL INTRO. 7-1 (2024)	KOOSHOIAN	The STUNT Law	Public Safety

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATOR RESOLUTIONS:

INTRO. 2-1	MINORITY CAUCUS	Encouraging NYS to Increase Cooperation with Federal Law Enforcement for the Purposes of Border Security
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COMMUNICATIONS DISCHARGED FROM COMMITTEE:

COMM. 1E-3	From the Public Safety Committee	From the Sheriff: Award Electronic Health Record (EHR) Contract
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SUSPENSION OF THE RULES:

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS:

COMM. 2E-1	MEYERS	Charter Revision Commission Appointment	Government Affairs
COMM. 2E-2	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Appointments - ECSD No. 8 Board of Managers	Immediate Consideration Requested
COMM. 2E-3	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Assembly & Senate Bill Request for Legislation Authorizing Extension of Additional Sales and Compensating Use Tax	Immediate Consideration Requested
COMM. 2E-4	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR) Project	Immediate Consideration Requested
COMM. 2E-5	COUNTY CLERK	Request Regarding Comm. 1M-2 - NFTA's 2024 Corporate Board Resolution	Economic Development
COMM. 2E-6	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Acceptance of State Aid for the STSJP Funding	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2E-7	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Department of Social Services - Shelter Improvement Plan	Health & Human Services

COMM. 2E-8	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Acceptance of HUD Grant for Lead Hazard Reduction	Finance & Management
COMM. 2E-9	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs	Finance & Management
COMM. 2E-10	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5 - Construction Inspection Term Contract Agreement	Energy & Environment
COMM. 2E-11	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	District Attorney Lobby Renovation	Economic Development
COMM. 2E-12	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Re-Appointment to the Youth Services Board	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2E-13	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Appointments to the Erie County Arts & Cultural Advisory Board	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2E-14	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Appointments to the Commission on the Status of Women	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2E-15	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Re-Appointment to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Directors	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2E-16	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Appointment to the Mental Hygiene Community Services Board	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2E-17	COMPTROLLER	EC Comptroller's Peer to Peer Review	Finance & Management
COMM. 2E-18	SHERIFF	FY 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant	Public Safety
COMM. 2E-19	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Re-Appointment of the Commissioner of Personnel	Health & Human Services

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS:

COMM. 2D-1	COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Comm. 12E-34 Compliance Report - Dec. 2024	Health & Human Services
COMM. 2D-2	DIRECTOR OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES	Open Item - Finance & Management Committee	Finance & Management

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PEOPLE AND OTHER AGENCIES:

COMM. 2M-1	NYS DEC	Brownfield Cleanup Program Application from Jemal's Loop, LLC	Energy & Environment
COMM. 2M-2	TOWN OF TONAWANDA CLERK	Town Board Resolution Regarding EC Sales Tax	Finance & Management

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

MAJORITY CAUCUS

Recognizing Birth Defects Awareness Month

Attachments

25PROC. 2-1

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 14, 2025

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 10:05

Recognizing Birth Defects Awareness Month

WHEREAS, January is *National Birth Defects Awareness Month*; and

WHEREAS, every 4.5 minutes in the United States a baby is born with a condition that affects the structure or function of their body; these conditions are referred to as birth defects; and

WHEREAS, while not all birth defects can be prevented, there are some steps you can take;
and

WHEREAS, knowledge empowers parents to make the best choices for their child's future. Understanding the child's condition is essential to making informed decisions about their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history or economic status; and

WHEREAS, family members and health care providers can ensure that individuals with birth defects receive the care and services they need to be as healthy and independent as possible;
and

WHEREAS, during the month of January, we highlight *National Birth Defects Awareness Month* and through birth defects prevention and community awareness, an important opportunity exists to unite the citizens of Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature highlights *National Birth Defects Awareness Month* and believes that every community member can make a difference and play a part to help create a safe and inclusive environment that benefits everyone.

Hon. Timothy J. Meyers
Chair of the Legislature
Erie County Legislator, 7th District

Hon. John J. Gilmour
Majority Leader
Erie County Legislator, 9th District

Hon. Lawrence J. Dupre
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Hon. Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Hon. Michael H. Kooshoian
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Hon. John A. Bargnesi Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 4th District

Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal
Erie County Legislator, 5th District

Olivia M. Owens
Clerk of the Legislature

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

MAJORITY CAUCUS

Recognizing National Poverty Awareness Month

Attachments

25PROC. 2-2

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 14, 2025

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 9:51

National Poverty Awareness Month

WHEREAS, January is Poverty Awareness Month and it gives us an opportunity to become more aware of those in need and the ways we can take action to combat poverty; and

WHEREAS, *Poverty Awareness Month* is about taking an opportunity to learn more about this social illness, raise awareness among others, and understand how everyone can help; and

WHEREAS, Poverty creates inter-generational issues, causes health issues due to food insecurity, stress, and lack of access to care, and contributes to children under-performing or missing school; and

WHEREAS, this month, let us pray for those that experience poverty, and for us that we may know how we can be of service to those in need; and

WHEREAS, during the month of January, we recognize *Poverty Awareness Month* and recommit ourselves to evolving awareness and addressing poverty can lead to improved health and economic opportunity, thus ensuring all people have access to necessities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognizes *Poverty Awareness Month* in bringing awareness, acknowledge our community and encourage residents to share appreciation for local period supply banks and their staff, volunteers, and donors, and to contribute generously to period supply banks, product drives, and organizations that collect and distribute period products.

Hon. Timothy J. Meyers
Chair of the Legislature
Erie County Legislator, 7th District

Hon. John J. Gilmour
Majority Leader
Erie County Legislator, 9th District

Hon. Lawrence J. Dupre
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Hon. Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Hon. Michael H. Kooshoian
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

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Erie County Legislator, 4th District

Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal
Erie County Legislator, 5th District

Olivia M. Owens
Clerk of the Legislature

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

DUPRE

Acknowledging and Honoring Meryll Tengesdal

25PROC. 2-3

Attachments

CC LEG JMN10 125 PM 1:45

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 10, 2025

Honoring and Recognizing Merryl Tengesdal

WHEREAS, *Merryl Tengesdal*, dedicated mother, wife and retired U.S Air Force Colonel, presents her memoir *Shatter the Sky*, an inspirational story that shares her life lessons on everything from her career in the military, becoming the first and only black woman to pilot the U2 aircraft, to marriage and motherhood and much more; and

WHEREAS, Merryl was born and raised in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, Merryl decided to further her education and obtained degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Haven, where she was one of only three women in her program and actively participated in basketball and ROTC; and

WHEREAS, Merryl's military career started in the Navy as a commissioned officer after graduating from Officer Candidate School in 1994; and

WHEREAS, she is notably recognized as the first and only African American woman to pilot the U-2 "Dragon Lady," a high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Merryl accumulated over 1,000 flight hours and participated in critical reconnaissance missions worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her flying career, Merryl has held significant leadership roles, such as the Chief of Flight Safety for the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Director of Operations for the 9th Physiological Support Squadron, and Commander of Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Detachment 2 at Palmdale, CA; and

WHEREAS, her last assignment before retiring in 2017 was as the Director of Inspections at the Pentagon, where she managed the USAF Nuclear Surety Inspections (NSI) program; and

WHEREAS, her post-military life is as accomplished as her career as a motivational speaker, sharing her thoughts to inspire individuals on diversity, leadership and the importance of women and minorities in STEM; and

WHEREAS, today, January 10, 2025, we are blessed to have Merryl host and present her memoir, *Shatter the Sky*, held at the Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body desires to acknowledge and recognize individuals such *Merryl Tengesdal*, a woman who has displayed the patience and perseverance to continue towards her goal as an author and inspirational speaker.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that with the utmost respect and admiration, the Erie County Legislature hereby recognizes and congratulates *Merryl Tengesdal* for her outstanding accomplishment of writing *Shatter the Sky* and offers our deepest appreciation for her dedicated work and wishes her the best in all her future endeavors.

Hon. Lawrence J. Dupre
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

ST. JEAN TARD & VINAL

Recognizing Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Attachments

25PROC. 2-4

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 14, 2025

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 9:51

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, during the month of January, ***Cervical Cancer Awareness Month*** highlight issues related to cervical cancer, HPV disease, and the importance of early detection; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer most often affects women in the prime of their life; and

WHEREAS, regular cervical cancer screening tests are an effective way to detect the disease early, allowing for early diagnosis and treatment which can significantly increase a woman's chance of survival; and

WHEREAS, this month, highlighting awareness between patients and healthcare providers alike regarding the best use of these prevention tools is a key component in safeguarding women's health; and

WHEREAS, during the month of January, we recognize ***Cervical Cancer Awareness Month*** and encourage ourselves all residents to understand that cervical cancer is treatable, and that routine screening and HPV vaccinations can save lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognize ***Cervical Cancer Awareness Month*** and encourages all women to share information and take the effective steps necessary.

Hon. Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal
Erie County Legislator, 5th District

Olivia M. Owens
Clerk of the Legislature

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

ST. JEAN TARD

Acknowledging and Honoring Karen New Year

Attachments

25PROC. 2-5

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 4, 2025

EC LEG JAN 3 '25 PM3:46

Acknowledging and Honoring Karen New Year

WHEREAS, the *Karen New Year* falls on the first day of Pyatho, the tenth month in the Burmese calendar; and

WHEREAS, the Karen New Year marks the end of the harvest of one rice crop and the beginning of the next rice crop; and

WHEREAS, the Karen New Year is also designed to preserve Karen culture and traditions, as well as build relationships and trust among community members and other communities; and

WHEREAS, The Karen people have given so much of themselves to help make Erie County a vibrant, diverse, honest, progressive, and supportive place to live; and

WHEREAS, Celebrations typically include don dances, bamboo dances, singing, speeches, and the consumption of food and beverages; and

WHEREAS, Erie County recognizes the Karen community in their strength, determination, resilience, and value while committing to serving the Karen population who reside within our community; and

WHEREAS, The *Karen New Year* allows the Karen people to feel pride in their heritage and to create an opportunity for other residents to learn about and enjoy the Karen culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body acknowledges *Karen New Year* and encourages residents to celebrate the Karen New Year by learning about Karen history, cultivating cultural understanding, developing relationships and supporting our Karen neighbors throughout the City of Buffalo and Erie County.

Hon. Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

ST. JEAN TARD

Honoring Bessie Patterson at the Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration

25PROC. 2-6

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 19, 2025

*Honoring Bessie Patterson at the Martin Luther King Jr Celebration
 "Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Non-Violence 365"*

WHEREAS, while the passing of Martin Luther King Jr in 1968 remains an unfortunate death on a local and national level, individuals such as **Bessie Patterson** continue to advocate and honor his life while highlighting the importance to our upcoming generations as to why his legacy remains important today; and

WHEREAS, **Bessie Patterson**, coordinator at the Concern Citizens Following the Dream organization and founder of Buffalo's Annual MLK Celebration Program, a free event that is known as the longest running celebration in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Bessie's deep love for her community and her commitment to service has led her to key roles such as becoming the music coordinator for the Minister's Conference of Buffalo and Vicinity for more than 40 years and coordinator of the Annual Gospel Fest since its inception in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Bessie has gone above and beyond to educate our youth about Dr. King and his works, while helping them to believe that they can do greater things than what he accomplished; and

WHEREAS, locally, Bessie has honored and recognized for her outstanding leadership and cultural contributions throughout the Buffalo community; and

WHEREAS, every January during MLK weekend, Bessie has taken time to coordinate the annual MLK Celebration, featuring local musical and dance performances and most importantly to reflect on Dr. King, his progress and the work left to be done in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body desires to acknowledge and recognize individuals such as Bessie Patterson, whose dedication to make a positive impact throughout the City of Buffalo through her community endeavors and her outstanding work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize *Bessie Patterson* on her dedicated service throughout the City of Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body thanks Bessie for her integrity, her compassion, her work ethic and sincere dedication to our community in her efforts to advocate unity while continuing to highlight the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hon. Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

KOOSHOIAN

Congratulating St. Joes Head Coach Mike Corona - The
Buffalo News Coach of the Year

25PROC. 2-7

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 13, 2025

*Congratulating Head Coach St. Joes Mike Corona
The Buffalo News Coach of the Year*

WHEREAS, when *Mike Corona* became St Joes football coach in 2020, he arrived with a vision to build a program and to build young men into leaders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Corona led St. Joe's (6-4) to notable wins over Jamestown and McKinley and defeated St. Francis (the reigning three-time Monsignor Martin playoff champion) in the league semifinals.; and

WHEREAS, earning key victories along with the journey to reach the league final are why Corona has been named The Buffalo News Coach of the Year as part of the 67th annual All-Western New York football team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mike also hired a group of exceptional assistant coaches including Kevin Gill, Kris Green, Tom Valentino, Kristopher McAndrews, Dave Rozak and Edward Hulton; and

WHEREAS, *Mike Corona* has provided his student athletes with a positive role model and instilling a strong work ethic in his teams.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature congratulates *Mike Corona* and his coaching on an exceptional season, commends him for his dedication to develop strong student athletes and proudly honor him for being named The Buffalo News Coach of the Year.

Hon. Micheal H. Kooshoian
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

SUBJECT

KOOSHOIAN

Honoring and Recognizing Elijah Kimble - 2024 Dick
Gallagher Buffalo News Player of the Year

25PROC. 2-8

Attachments

TATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 14, 2025

EC LEG JAN 13 '25 PM 3:52

Honoring and Recognizing Elijah Kimble
2024 Dick Gallagher Buffalo News Player of the Year

WHEREAS, at a young age, *Elijah Kimble* developed a love for football and instantly became a sight to see; and

WHEREAS, Kimble's stats speak for themselves as he ran for an impressive 1,778 yards and scored 31 touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, his dominance on the ground as a sophomore led Canisius to its first Monsignor Martin Division A championship since 2020; and

WHEREAS, he also led Canisius to the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association's state final and becoming a two-time Connolly Cup finalist; and

WHEREAS, currently, Elijah has offers from Ohio State, Michigan, Ole Miss, Oregon, Penn State and others; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body desires to acknowledge and recognize individuals such as *Elijah Kimble* who enhance, represent, and change by way of action in devoting his time on blessing our community with his talents to go along with his well-deserved accolades and achievements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby applauds and recognizes *Elijah Kimble* for his hard work and much deserved praise throughout high school athletics; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature honors Sam as the winner of the 2024 Dick Gallagher Buffalo News Player of the Year as well as health and happiness in all his years to come.

Hon. Micheal H. Kooshoian
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

VINAL

Celebrating and Honoring National India Republic Day

Attachments

25PROC. 2-9

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 26, 2025

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 PM 9:51

Celebrating and Honoring National India Republic Day

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2025, the Indian American community celebrates the inception of India's democratic constitution; and

WHEREAS, this significant day serves the Indian democracy in providing a voice to many, including women and countless minorities, and has demonstrated Indians' commitment to human dignity; and

WHEREAS, India is a great country famous for a saying "Unity in Diversity" where people of more than one religion living together with complete understanding, patience and brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, the importance of Republic day in India is that it marks and celebrates the day on which the Constitution of India came into full effect turning the young nation into a republic; and

WHEREAS, celebrations during National India Republic Day have rightly become world famous as one of the greatest shows on earth drawing thousands of eager sight-seers from all over the country and many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, this year it will be marked India's 75th Republic Day and this Honorable Body shows appreciation and thankful for organizations such as the India Association of Buffalo in their efforts to take the initiative to educate our community and garner interest in their cultural history in celebration of ***National India Republic Day***.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature expresses our thanks and sincere and heart-felt appreciation and blessings India Association of Buffalo for their hard work and persistence in acknowledging and celebrating India's 75th Republic Day in honor of ***National India Republic Day***.

Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal
Erie County Legislator, 5th District

Olivia M. Owens
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

GREENE & VINAL

Honoring and Thanking Jon Kemp for His 50 Years of Service
With Main-Transit Fire Hall

Attachments

25PROC. 2-10

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January, 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Honoring and Thanking Jon Kemp for his 50 Years of Service
With Main-Transit Fire Hall**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature wishes to recognize individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving their community with distinction, and it is with great pride that we honor Past Chief **Jon Kemp** for his 50 years of exemplary service with the **Main-Transit Fire Hall**; and

WHEREAS, **Jon Kemp** joined the **Main-Transit Fire Hall** on August 19, 1974, and over the course of five decades, has held numerous leadership roles, including Safety Officer, Fire Lieutenant, Fire Captain for 20 years, Assistant Chief for 10 years, and Fire Chief for 3 years, demonstrating unwavering dedication and commitment to the safety and well-being of his community; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Fire Chief, **Jon Kemp** oversaw the purchase of the department's current Heavy Rescue apparatus and served on numerous truck and apparatus purchasing committees, as well as equipment committees for items such as Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) and Thermal Imaging Cameras, ensuring that the department was equipped with the tools necessary to effectively protect the community; and

WHEREAS, **Jon Kemp** played an instrumental role in the re-establishment of the Slo-Pokes Drill Team in the 1970s, and as a long-time member of the team, he excelled in ladder climbing events, contributed to the construction of the Slo-Pokes race track in 1979, and became known for hosting memorable team-building events at his cottage on Rushford Lake; and

WHEREAS, beyond his contributions to the fire service, **Jon Kemp** has been an active participant in the Amherst Firefighter's Bowling League, an avid golfer, and a past winner of the annual Amherst Fire Council golf tournament, showcasing his camaraderie and leadership both on and off the course; and

WHEREAS, **Jon Kemp** was born and raised in the Town of Amherst, where he has spent the majority of his life as a devoted resident, husband to Judy, and father to two daughters, Alex and Emily; and

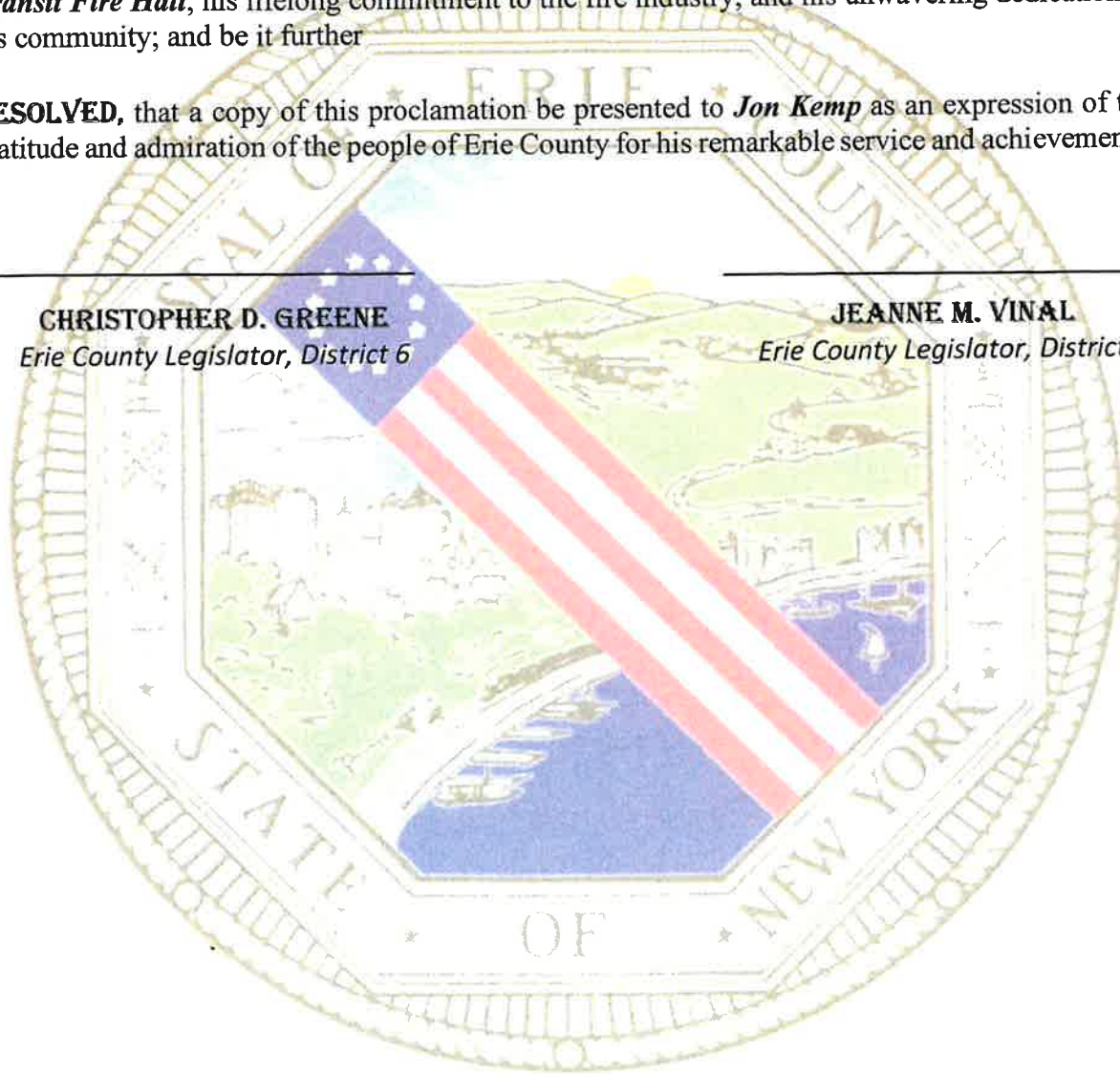
WHEREAS, his professional career in the fire industry further demonstrated his commitment to emergency services, and as the Co-Founder and former director of C-HOPE, *Jon Kemp* has been a passionate advocate for promoting inclusion, providing innovative programming for adults with developmental disabilities, and championing first responders disability awareness and training.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and honor Past Chief *Jon Kemp* for his extraordinary 50 years of service with the *Main-Transit Fire Hall*, his lifelong commitment to the fire industry, and his unwavering dedication to his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this proclamation be presented to *Jon Kemp* as an expression of the gratitude and admiration of the people of Erie County for his remarkable service and achievements.

CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE
Erie County Legislator, District 6

JEANNE M. VINAL
Erie County Legislator, District 5



Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

GREENE

Honoring and Thanking Michael Burkhardt for 60 Years of
Service to Clarence Fire Company

25PROC. 2-11

Attachments

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 at 9:29

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January, 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Honoring and Thanking Michael Burkhardt for 60 Years of Service to Clarence Fire Company

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature takes great pride in recognizing individuals who dedicate themselves to the safety and well-being of their communities through extraordinary service; and

WHEREAS, *Michael Burkhardt* has exemplified such dedication, marking an incredible milestone of over 60 years of active service with the Clarence Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, *Michael Burkhardt* began his journey with the *Clarence Fire Company* as a young married man, first reporting to the fire hall on Bodine Road, and has since committed his life to serving and protecting the residents of Clarence; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, *Michael Burkhardt* has served in numerous leadership roles, including Truck Lieutenant, Captain, and as 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Assistant Chief, demonstrating unwavering leadership to the fire company; and

WHEREAS, *Michael Burkhardt* also served on the Board of Directors, further contributing to the governance and strategic direction of the *Clarence Fire Company*; and

WHEREAS, *Michael Burkhardt's* technical expertise as the truck mechanic for many years ensured the operational readiness of the company's vital firefighting equipment; and

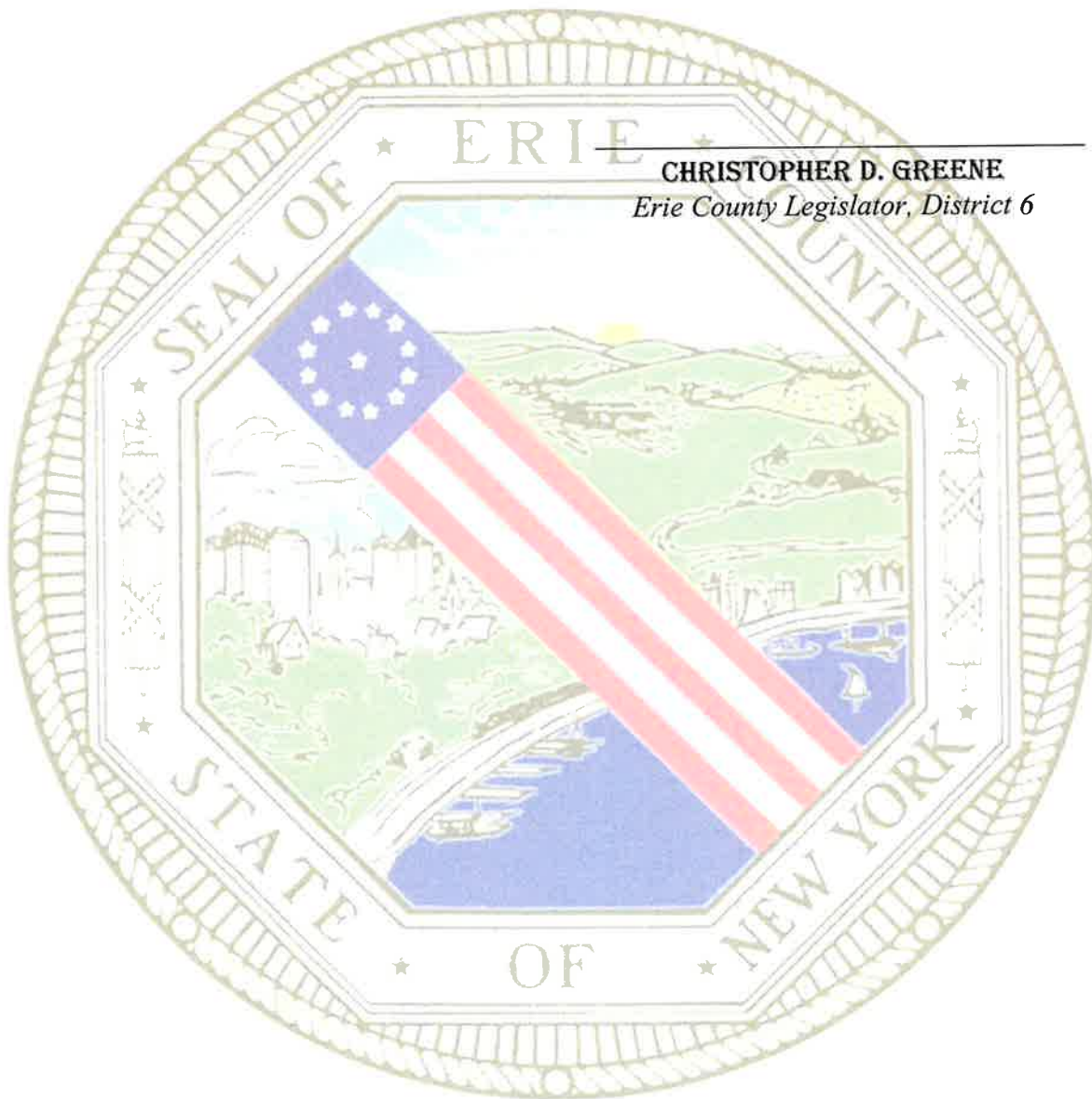
WHEREAS, *Michael Burkhardt* has been an integral member of the Fire Police Squad, serving as their Captain for many years and continuing to serve in this capacity, showcasing his enduring dedication to public safety; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his exceptional service and contributions, *Michael Burkhardt* was honored in 1992 with the prestigious Jack Patton Award, a testament to his impact and allegiance to the *Clarence Fire Company* and the community; and

WHEREAS, *Michael Burkhardt's* remarkable 60 years of service stand as a shining example of selflessness and courage, inspiring future generations of firefighters and community members alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor **Michael Burkhardt** for his extraordinary milestone of 60 years of active service to the **Clarence Fire Company**, commend his dedication and leadership, and extend its profound gratitude for his enduring contributions to the Town of Clarence and Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby declares January 18, 2025, as "**Michael Burkhardt Day**" in Erie County in recognition of his outstanding service and unwavering commitment to the **Clarence Fire Company** and the community at large.



CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE
Erie County Legislator, District 6

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

GREENE

Honoring and Thanking Brother Edward Lewis for 50 Years
of Service with the Clarence Fire Company

Attachments

25PROC. 2-12

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January, 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Honoring and Thanking Brother Edward Lewis for 50
Years of Service with the Clarence Fire Company**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is proud to honor those individuals whose unwavering commitment to public service enhances the safety and well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, *Brother Edward Lewis* has dedicated an extraordinary 50 years of active service to the **Clarence Fire Company**, embodying the spirit of volunteerism and selflessness that is the foundation of our emergency services; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, *Brother Lewis* has served in numerous capacities, including many years on the Board of Directors, where his leadership and dedication contributed significantly to the success and governance of the **Clarence Fire Company**; and

WHEREAS, *Brother Lewis* continues to serve with distinction as a member of the Fire Police Squad, ensuring the safety and coordination of emergency scenes with his expertise and reliability; and

WHEREAS, *Brother Lewis* was recognized for his exceptional contributions by being named Fireman of the Year in 1988, an honor that highlights his dedication, courage, and exemplary service to the community; and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of *Brother Edward Lewis's* service is a milestone that deserves our utmost admiration and gratitude, as it reflects his steadfast commitment to protecting the lives and property of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, *Brother Lewis's* enduring legacy of service inspires his peers, future generations of firefighters, and the entire Clarence community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor *Brother Edward Lewis* for his 50 years of active and dedicated service to the **Clarence Fire Company**.

CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE
Erie County Legislator, District 6

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

GREENE

Honoring and Thanking Nathaniel Huck for His Contributions
to Ten Lives Club

25PROC. 2-13

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025, A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Honoring and Thanking Nathaniel Huck for his
Contributions to Ten Lives Club**

WHEREAS, the spirit of generosity and compassion exemplifies the true meaning of the season of giving; and

WHEREAS, *Nathaniel Huck*, a young and inspiring member of the Clarence community, recently participated in his school's Maker's Market event, demonstrating entrepreneurial spirit and an extraordinary commitment to helping others; and

WHEREAS, at his stand, *Nathaniel* sold cookies, handmade pet bandanas, and catnip toys, standing out among the 70 participants as the only student who chose to donate his earnings to charity; and

WHEREAS, through his efforts, *Nathaniel* raised over \$400—with the generous support of his grandmother, who rounded up his total from \$360—and selected *Ten Lives Club*, an organization dedicated to rescuing and rehoming cats, as the recipient of his thoughtful donation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his monetary donation, *Nathaniel* contributed handmade cat collars and toys to enrich the lives of the cats in the care of *Ten Lives Club*; and

WHEREAS, *Nathaniel's* family has fostered over 25 kittens through *Ten Lives Club*, embodying their belief in the importance of supporting such vital organizations; and

WHEREAS, *Nathaniel's* selfless acts of kindness and his dedication to making the world a better place for both people and animals serve as an inspiration to all who know him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and extend heartfelt thanks to *Nathaniel* for his remarkable contributions to *Ten Lives Club* and for embodying the true spirit of giving.

CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE

Erie County Legislator, District 6

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

GREENE

Honoring and Thanking Chief Christopher Kaplewicz for 16
Years of Dedicated Service

Attachments

25PROC. 2-14

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025, A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January, 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Honoring and Thanking Chief Christopher Kaplewicz for
16 Years of Dedicated Service**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is proud to honor and recognize individuals who dedicate their time, energy, and talents to ensuring the safety and well-being of their community; and

WHEREAS, *Chief Christopher Kaplewicz* has exemplified these qualities throughout his distinguished career with the Getzville Fire Company, where he has served with unwavering dedication since joining in 2005; and

WHEREAS, *Chief Kaplewicz* has been a cornerstone of leadership within the Getzville Fire Company, serving in the Chief's office for 16 years, including as Getzville 9 from 2017 to 2021, and continuing as Getzville 9-1 for the past three years to guide and mentor the next generation of leaders; and

WHEREAS, *Chief Kaplewicz's* commitment to service extends beyond his leadership roles, as he has consistently been one of Getzville's top responders, answering every call with courage, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to protecting the lives and property of his neighbors; and

WHEREAS, *Chief Kaplewicz's* contributions to the Getzville Fire Company and the broader community serve as an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing and working alongside him, exemplifying the very best of volunteerism and public service; and

WHEREAS, *Chief Kaplewicz* has announced his decision to step down from his role in the Chief's office, ending an extraordinary chapter of leadership, but will continue his invaluable service to the Getzville Fire Company as an appointed officer in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to express its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to *Chief Christopher Kaplewicz* for his outstanding service and commitment to the Getzville Fire Company and the community it serves.

CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE
Erie County Legislator, District 6

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

TODARO

Recognizing Ricky Andres on His 100th Career Win as a
Lancaster Legend Varsity Wrestler

Attachments

25PROC. 2-15

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Recognizing Ricky Andres on His 100th Career Win as a Lancaster Legend Varsity Wrestler

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is pleased to recognize individuals and organizations for remarkable accomplishments that display dedication, perseverance, and talent while bringing great pride to our community; and

WHEREAS, **Ricky Andres** on December 28, 2024, earned his 100th win as a Lancaster Legend Varsity Wrestler by technical fall, while winning two of four matches during the Teike-Bernabi Wrestling Tournament; and

WHEREAS, **Ricky Andres** became just the 27th wrestler in Lancaster Legends history to achieve the mark of 100 career wins as he leads his team as one of only two seniors and one of two Captains; and

WHEREAS, **Ricky Andres** achievement was described by his coach, Clint Schaefer, to “speaks volumes to the consistency of the wrestler throughout their career. It takes 4 years or more in a varsity lineup to achieve this mark. It’s a big deal;” and

WHEREAS, **Ricky Andres** competes in one of the oldest games in the world and one of the demanding tests of will that exist in the sporting world; and

WHEREAS, **Ricky Andres** has his sights set on a section title in February and his coach confidently believes he will “continue to work towards that achievement.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Ricky Andres** for his 100th career Varsity win as a Lancaster Legend.

FRANK J. TODARO
Erie County Legislator, District 8

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

TODARO

Congratulating Lily Iozzia on Being Named Monsignor Martin
Player of the Year in Girls Soccer

25PROC. 2-16

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Congratulating Lily Iozzia on Being Named
Monsignor Martin Player of the Year in Girls Soccer**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is pleased to recognize individuals and organizations for remarkable accomplishments that display dedication, perseverance, and talent while bringing great pride to our community; and

WHEREAS, Lily Iozzia was named the Monsignor Martin Player of the Year for Girls Soccer in the fall season of 2024, and was named to the All-Western New York, All State Class C, and All Catholic Girls Soccer First Team; and

WHEREAS, Lily Iozzia's efforts boosted the Lancers to the fourth consecutive Monsignor Martin Championship and to a State Catholic Finals appearance; and

WHEREAS, Lily Iozzia plays one of the world's most popular sports, and one of the consummate team games, speaking to her ability as a team player, collaborator and she also embodied St. Mary's athletic mission by inspiring those around her, developing her own skills, and supporting her teammates; and

WHEREAS, Lily Iozzia looks to continue her soccer career with another year at St. Mary's and has verbally committed to the University of Buffalo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize Lily Iozzia for her terrific team and individual success over the 2024 fall season.

FRANK J. TODARO
Erie County Legislator, District 8

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

TODARO

Congratulating Carson Tyler on Being Named New York State
Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year

25PROC. 2-17

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y. JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Congratulating Carson Tyler on Being Named New York
State Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is pleased to recognize individuals and organizations for remarkable accomplishments that display dedication, perseverance, and talent while bringing great pride to our community; and

WHEREAS, **Carson Tyler** not only achieved tremendous individual success by being named the New York State Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year but also led her team to a third consecutive New York State Title and the 21st State Championship held by St. Mary's Volleyball; and

WHEREAS, **Carson Tyler** became the second St. Mary's volleyball player to ever receive the award, which is widely considered the highest award a High School athlete can receive, cementing herself in the annals of Lancers history while racking up more than 1500 kills over the course of her career; and

WHEREAS, **Carson Tyler** makes her parents, Brian and Kelly, very proud on and off the court in part due to her academic excellence, maintaining a 4.0 GPA and by being a member of the Marian Chapter of the National Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, **Carson Tyler** and her team achieved the ultimate goal for a third consecutive time to end the season and were also able to raise over four and a half thousand dollars for cancer research over the course of their season; and

WHEREAS, **Carson Tyler** will continue her career at Ball State University representing Western New York in her continued pursuit of excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor **Carson Tyler** and to celebrate her for the enormity of her success both as an individual and as a team over her tenure as a St. Mary's Lancer.

FRANK J. TODARO
Erie County Legislator, District 8

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Al Roberts for 35 Years of Service to the
Blossom Volunteer Fire Company

Attachments

25PROC. 2-18

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Recognizing Al Roberts for 35 Years of Service to the Blossom Volunteer Fire Company

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there may be no more noble exhibition of sacrifice and selflessness than the life-saving contributions of our volunteer fire and emergency services personnel; and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters are prepared twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to risk their safety in the performance of their duties to protect our citizens regardless of inclement weather or other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Blossom Volunteer Fire Company has provided fire, rescue, and emergency services every day for residents in the Town of Elma and surrounding areas since its establishment in 1872; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Blossom Volunteer Fire Company thirty-five years ago, **Al Roberts** has demonstrated extraordinary courage and skill in responding to emergencies and protecting Erie County residents while serving as a role model of dedication and resilience; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism and bravery, **Al Roberts'** tireless efforts have made Western New York a safer place to live, work, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, **Al Roberts** has proven himself to be a vital member of the Blossom Volunteer Fire Company, with sincere dedication to his work as he and his fellow firefighters protect the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Al Roberts** for thirty-five years of service and dedication to the Blossom Volunteer Fire Company.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Leah Nolan Torres on Her Election to 3rd
Assistant Chief of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company

25PROC. 2-19

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Recognizing Leah Nolan Torres on her Election
to 3rd Assistant Chief of the Jamison Road
Volunteer Fire Company**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there may be no more noble exhibition of sacrifice and selflessness than the life-saving contributions of our volunteer fire and emergency services personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Jamison Road Fire Company provides fire, rescue, and emergency services every day for residents in the Town of Elma since its incorporation in 1941; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company ten years ago, **Leah Nolan Torres** has demonstrated extraordinary courage and skill in responding to emergencies and protecting Elma residents while serving as a role model of dedication and resilience; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, **Leah Nolan Torres** has been elected to serve as the **3rd Assistant Chief** of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company, being the first woman to serve at this level of leadership in the Company's 84-year history; and

WHEREAS, **Leah Nolan Torres** has exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and bravery throughout her firefighting career, previously beginning as a Junior Firefighter at the age of 16 and later serving as a Captain; and

WHEREAS, **Leah Nolan Torres** has proven herself to be a vital member of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company, with a sincere dedication to her work as she protects the community alongside her family and fellow firefighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Leah Nolan Torres** on her ten years of service and election to **3rd Assistant Chief** of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Charles Bethge for 55 Years of Service to the
Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company

25PROC. 2-20

Attachments

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Recognizing Charles Bethge for 55 Years of Service to the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there may be no more noble exhibition of sacrifice and selflessness than the life-saving contributions of our volunteer fire and emergency services personnel; and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters are prepared twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to risk their safety in the performance of their duties to protect our citizens regardless of inclement weather or other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company has provided fire, rescue, and emergency services every day for the residents of Erie County since 1913; and

WHEREAS, **Charles Bethge** has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and bravery throughout his fifty-five years of active service with the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company, having previously served as 1st Fire Lieutenant and experience on multiple fire association committees; and

WHEREAS, for the past forty-four years as a Fire Commissioner, **Charles Bethge** has helped lead the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company as it effectively serves the community, making Western New York a safer place to live, work, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, **Charles Bethge** has proven himself to be a vital member of the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company, with sincere dedication to his work as he and his fellow firefighters protect the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Charles Bethge** for fifty-five years of service and dedication to the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company.

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing J. Jay Gnojek for 40 Years of Service to the
Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company

25PROC. 2-21

Attachments

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Recognizing J. Jay Gnojek for 40 Years of Service to the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there may be no more noble exhibition of sacrifice and selflessness than the life-saving contributions of our volunteer fire and emergency services personnel; and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters are prepared twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to risk their safety in the performance of their duties to protect our citizens regardless of inclement weather or other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company has provided fire, rescue, and emergency services every day for the residents of Erie County since 1913; and

WHEREAS, **J. Jay Gnojek** has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and bravery throughout his various roles in the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company, having previously served positions including 1st and 2nd Rescue Captain, 1st and 2nd Fire Captain, 1st and 2nd Vice President; and

WHEREAS, for the past fourteen years as a Fire Commissioner, **J. Jay Gnojek** has helped lead the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company as it effectively serves the community, making Western New York a safer place to live, work, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, **J. Jay Gnojek** has proven himself to be a vital member of the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company, with sincere dedication to his work as he and his fellow firefighters protect the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **J. Jay Gnojek** for forty years of service and dedication to the Spring Brook Volunteer Fire Company.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO	Recognizing the West Seneca Woman's Club as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Community Service Organization of the Year
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25PROC. 2-22	Attachments
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STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Recognizing the West Seneca Woman's Club as the
West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025
Community Service Organization of the Year**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor businesses and organizations in Erie County that enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, the **West Seneca Woman's Club** has been named "Community Service Organization of the Year" by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce for 2025; and

WHEREAS, since its beginnings in 1969, the **West Seneca Woman's Club** is dedicated to supporting other nonprofit organizations and raising money for local scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the **West Seneca Woman's Club** is constantly active in the community through its efforts in fundraising and taking care of the Burchfield Nature and Arts Center, sponsoring the "Students of Excellence" awards of the West Seneca Central School District, donating to local causes like Meals on Wheels, FeedMore WNY, the West Seneca Food Pantry, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the **West Seneca Woman's Club** is heavily involved in local events such as West Seneca's annual National Night Out, the West Seneca Community Days, and the West Seneca Service Clubs' holiday party; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of its dedicated members, the **West Seneca Woman's Club** exemplifies community service through its actions, constantly working to make the Town of West Seneca a prosperous and friendly place to live.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the **West Seneca Woman's Club** and congratulate them upon being named the **West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Community Service Organization of the Year**.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Claudia Emmerson as the West Seneca Chamber
of Commerce 2025 Citizen of the Year

25PROC. 2-23

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Recognizing Claudia Emmerson as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Citizen of the Year

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, **Claudia Emmerson** has been named “Citizen of the Year” by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce for 2025; and

WHEREAS, **Claudia Emmerson** has been a dedicated volunteer of the West Seneca Civic & Patriotic Commission since its inception in 1974 and currently works as the Treasurer of the Commission and co-chair of the West Seneca Community Days beer tent for the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, in her responsibilities as beer tent co-chair, **Claudia Emmerson** works closely with local businesses and organizations to set up important logistics of the yearly Community Days celebration, including tent rentals, portable facilities, stages, and many other crucial aspects of the event; and

WHEREAS, the West Seneca Civic & Patriotic Commission regularly collaborates with other aspects of the Town of West Seneca’s leadership, including the Police Department, Buildings & Grounds, and the Supervisor’s office to organize the Community Days; and

WHEREAS, **Claudia Emmerson** is a crucial part of the West Seneca Community Days, with her tireless efforts contributing greatly to the event’s success year after year as it remains an integral part of the town; and

WHEREAS, as a lifelong resident, **Claudia Emmerson** has exemplified dedication to maintaining the vitality and culture of the Town of West Seneca.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Claudia Emmerson** and congratulate her upon being named **West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Citizen of the Year.**

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the West Seneca Art Society as the West Seneca
Chamber of Commerce 2025 Chamber Member of the Year

25PROC. 2-24

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing the West Seneca Art Society as the
West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025
Chamber Member of the Year**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor businesses and organizations in Erie County that enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, the **West Seneca Art Society** has been named “Chamber Member of the Year” by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce for 2025; and

WHEREAS, as its membership continues to grow with artists across the community, the **West Seneca Art Society** hosts local events and organizations across the Town of West Seneca while also consistently supporting its fellow service organizations; and

WHEREAS, the **West Seneca Art Society** is responsible for the constantly-rotating gallery of artwork and photography on display for visitors of the West Seneca Community Center, the Library, and the town offices to enjoy daily; and

WHEREAS, as a host of art shows and numerous scholarships for artistically inclined students, the **West Seneca Art Society** has contributed significantly to the vitality and culture of the community through its creative classes and events; and

WHEREAS, through its efforts, the **West Seneca Art Society** has become a platform dedicated to helping share the work of talented local artists and supporting town events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the **West Seneca Art Society** and congratulate them upon being named the **West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Chamber Member of the Year**.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Sgroi Lawley as the West Seneca Chamber of
Commerce 2025 Business of the Year

Attachments

25PROC. 2-25

STATE OF NEW YORK

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 9:30

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

Recognizing Sgroi Lawley as the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Business of the Year

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor businesses and organizations in Erie County that enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, Sgroi Lawley has been named “Business of the Year” by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce for 2025; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in 1971 by Joseph Sgroi, Sgroi Lawley has grown to be a full-service financial planning firm serving Western New York, helping individuals and businesses navigate insurance and investment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Sgroi Lawley has been recognized with numerous awards throughout recent years, being named Best Financial Planning Firm in the Buffalo News’ Best of 716 Contest in 2022 through 2024, recognized in 2021 as a Buffalo Business First “Best Places to Work”, and included in Newsweek’s 2025 America’s Top Financial Advisory Firms; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Sgroi Lawley founded the JMS Foundation to honor the late Jeffrey Michael Sgroi, providing scholarships for graduating high school students at St. Francis and West Seneca, as well as creating The Pencil Project, an annual campaign supporting local teachers that helps improve classroom supplies; and

WHEREAS, Sgroi Lawley has exemplified professionalism and community service serving its clients while being a pillar of support to fellow organizations in Western New York.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize Sgroi Lawley and congratulate them upon being named the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Business of the Year.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO

Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Sydney Sterlace as the West Seneca Chamber of
Commerce 2025 Gerald Hathaway Young Entrepreneur of the
Year

Attachments

25PROC. 2-26

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing Sydney Sterlace as the West Seneca
Chamber of Commerce 2025 Gerald Hathaway
Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals in our community who demonstrate exceptional talent, inspire others through their achievements, and contribute to the cultural fabric of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, **Sydney Sterlace** has been named the “Gerald Hathaway Young Entrepreneur of the Year” by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce for 2025; and

WHEREAS, the “Gerald Hathaway Young Entrepreneur of the Year” award is given to West Seneca business owners twenty-five years old or younger who have demonstrated a strong entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, **Sydney Sterlace** has constantly chased her lifelong dreams of music, participating in local talent shows since she was eight years old, winning first place at the Erie County Fair talent competition at the age of ten; and

WHEREAS, competing in the 26th season of NBC’s “The Voice,” **Sydney Sterlace** has proven her musical talent on the national stage, finishing in third place as an ambassador for West Seneca, Buffalo, and Western New York to millions of viewers; and

WHEREAS, with the support of her family and Western New York behind her, **Sydney Sterlace** is a shining example for young individuals to follow their dreams, pursue their passions with dedication, and strive for excellence in their endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Sydney Sterlace** and congratulate her upon being named the **2025 Gerald Hathaway Young Entrepreneur of the Year**.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO

Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Gail Bielanin as the West Seneca Chamber of
Commerce 2025 Educator of the Year

Attachments

25PROC. 2-27

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing Gail Bielanin as the West Seneca
Chamber of Commerce 2025 Educator of the Year**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, **Gail Bielanin** has been named “Educator of the Year” by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce for 2025; and

WHEREAS, since beginning her career in the West Seneca Central School District Special Education Office in 2004, **Gail Bielanin** has dedicated her professional career to helping students navigate through all aspects of grade-school education; and

WHEREAS, **Gail Bielanin** has worked in the Academy Program office for the past twelve years, working closely with students to help them gain real-world experience in the fields of Business/Finance, IT/Digital Media, Life Science, Digital Arts, and Engineering, with the program requiring students to take on internships offered by businesses and organizations throughout Western New York; and

WHEREAS, working with thousands of students throughout her time with the West Seneca Central School District, **Gail Bielanin** demonstrates a passion and commitment to the success of each student, ensuring that critical events in their school careers, like ceremonies and internships, run smoothly; and

WHEREAS, as a dedicated educator for over twenty years, **Gail Bielanin** has impacted the lives of thousands of students through her dedication to equipping the next generation of learners with the life skills essential to future success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Gail Bielanin** and congratulate her upon being named the **West Seneca Chamber of Commerce 2025 Educator of the Year**.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of West Seneca during World
Kiwanis Week

25PROC. 2-28

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of West Seneca
during World Kiwanis Week**

WHEREAS, the week of January 21st through 26th is recognized internationally as “**World Kiwanis Week**” to highlight the important initiatives that Kiwanis International works toward for children and families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, through acts of service and commitment to building strong, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 by a group of merchants and professionals, Kiwanis International has since expanded to operate in over eighty countries and a membership of over one million people; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis members dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help enhance the quality of life for their community’s children and families through fundraising, sponsoring service projects, and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kiwanis aligns with the values of community, compassion, and collective action, serving as an inspiration to people of all ages to give back and make a difference in their communities; and

WHEREAS, World Kiwanis Week is an opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Kiwanis members, celebrate the organization’s achievements, and encourage others to join in the spirit of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the members of the **Kiwanis Club of West Seneca** for their outstanding community service to Western New York.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Springville during World
Kiwanis Week

25PROC. 2-29

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Springville
During World Kiwanis Week**

WHEREAS, the week of January 21st through 26th is recognized internationally as “**World Kiwanis Week**” to highlight the important initiatives that Kiwanis International works toward for children and families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, through acts of service and commitment to building strong, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 by a group of merchants and professionals, Kiwanis International has since expanded to operate in over eighty countries with a membership of over one million people; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis members dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help enhance the quality of life for their community’s children and families through fundraising, sponsoring service projects, and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kiwanis aligns with the values of community, compassion, and collective action, serving as an inspiration to people of all ages to give back and make a difference in their communities; and

WHEREAS, World Kiwanis Week is an opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Kiwanis members, celebrate the organization’s achievements, and encourage others to join in the spirit of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the members of the **Kiwanis Club of Springville** for their outstanding community service to Western New York.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Holland during World
Kiwanis Week

25PROC. 2-30

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Holland
During World Kiwanis Week**

WHEREAS, the week of January 21st through 26th is recognized internationally as “**World Kiwanis Week**” to highlight the important initiatives that Kiwanis International works toward for children and families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, through acts of service and commitment to building strong, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 by a group of merchants and professionals, Kiwanis International has since expanded to operate in over eighty countries with a membership of over one million people; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis members dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help enhance the quality of life for their community’s children and families through fundraising, sponsoring service projects, and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kiwanis aligns with the values of community, compassion, and collective action, serving as an inspiration to people of all ages to give back and make a difference in their communities; and

WHEREAS, World Kiwanis Week is an opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Kiwanis members, celebrate the organization’s achievements, and encourage others to join in the spirit of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the members of the **Kiwanis Club of Holland** for their outstanding community service to Western New York.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Wales during World Kiwanis Week

25PROC. 2-31

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Wales
During World Kiwanis Week**

WHEREAS, the week of January 21st through 26th is recognized internationally as “**World Kiwanis Week**” to highlight the important initiatives that Kiwanis International works toward for children and families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, through acts of service and commitment to building strong, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 by a group of merchants and professionals, Kiwanis International has since expanded to operate in over eighty countries with a membership of over one million people; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis members dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help enhance the quality of life for their community’s children and families through fundraising, sponsoring service projects, and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kiwanis aligns with the values of community, compassion, and collective action, serving as an inspiration to people of all ages to give back and make a difference in their communities; and

WHEREAS, World Kiwanis Week is an opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Kiwanis members, celebrate the organization’s achievements, and encourage others to join in the spirit of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the members of the **Kiwanis Club of Wales** for their outstanding community service to Western New York.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of East Aurora during World
Kiwanis Week

25PROC. 2-32

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of East Aurora
During World Kiwanis Week**

WHEREAS, the week of January 21st through 26th is recognized internationally as “**World Kiwanis Week**” to highlight the important initiatives that Kiwanis International works toward for children and families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, through acts of service and commitment to building strong, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 by a group of merchants and professionals, Kiwanis International has since expanded to operate in over eighty countries with a membership of over one million people; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis members dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help enhance the quality of life for their community’s children and families through fundraising, sponsoring service projects, and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kiwanis aligns with the values of community, compassion, and collective action, serving as an inspiration to people of all ages to give back and make a difference in their communities; and

WHEREAS, World Kiwanis Week is an opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Kiwanis members, celebrate the organization’s achievements, and encourage others to join in the spirit of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the members of the **Kiwanis Club of East Aurora** for their outstanding community service to Western New York.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Elma during World Kiwanis Week

25PROC. 2-33

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Elma
During World Kiwanis Week**

WHEREAS, the week of January 21st through 26th is recognized internationally as “**World Kiwanis Week**” to highlight the important initiatives that Kiwanis International works toward for children and families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time, through acts of service and commitment to building strong, vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, since its foundation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915 by a group of merchants and professionals, Kiwanis International has since expanded to operate in over eighty countries with a membership of over one million people; and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis members dedicate their time, talent, and resources to help enhance the quality of life for their community’s children and families through fundraising, sponsoring service projects, and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Kiwanis aligns with the values of community, compassion, and collective action, serving as an inspiration to people of all ages to give back and make a difference in their communities; and

WHEREAS, World Kiwanis Week is an opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Kiwanis members, celebrate the organization’s achievements, and encourage others to join in the spirit of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize the members of the **Kiwanis Club of Elma** for their outstanding community service to Western New York.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Michael Rauff for 15 Years of Service to the
Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company

Attachments

25PROC. 2-34

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

**Recognizing Michael Rauff for 15 Years of Service
to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there may be no more noble exhibition of sacrifice and selflessness than the life-saving contributions of our volunteer fire and emergency services personnel; and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters are prepared twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to risk their safety in the performance of their duties to protect our citizens regardless of inclement weather or other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Jamison Road Fire Company provides fire, rescue, and emergency services every day for residents in the Town of Elma; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company fifteen years ago, **Michael Rauff** has demonstrated extraordinary courage and skill in responding to emergencies and protecting Elma residents while serving as a role model of dedication and resilience; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism and bravery, **Michael Rauff's** tireless efforts have made Western New York a safer place to live, work, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, **Michael Rauff** has proven himself to be a vital member of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company and has a sincere dedication to his work as he and his fellow firefighters protect the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Michael Rauff** for fifteen years of service and dedication to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LORIGO

Recognizing Ryan Skipper for 5 Years of Service to the
Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company

Attachments

25PROC. 2-35

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16, 2025 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**Recognizing Ryan Skipper for 5 Years of Service
to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, there may be no more noble exhibition of sacrifice and selflessness than the life-saving contributions of our volunteer fire and emergency services personnel; and

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters are prepared twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to risk their safety in the performance of their duties to protect our citizens regardless of inclement weather or other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Jamison Road Fire Company provides fire, rescue, and emergency services every day for residents in the Town of Elma; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company five years ago, **Ryan Skipper** has demonstrated extraordinary courage and skill in responding to emergencies and protecting Elma residents while serving as a role model of dedication and resilience; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism and bravery, **Ryan Skipper's** tireless efforts have made Western New York a safer place to live, work, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, **Ryan Skipper** has proven himself to be a vital member of the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company, with a sincere dedication to his work as he and his fellow firefighters protect the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize **Ryan Skipper** for five years of service and dedication to the Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company.

LINDSAY R. LORIGO
Erie County Legislator, District 10

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

MILLS

Honoring the Original American Kazoo Company of Eden,
New York

25PROC. 2-36

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16TH, 2025, A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the day 16th of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

Honoring the Original American Kazoo Company of Eden, New York

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions in Erie County who enhance the quality of life through their dedication and service; and

WHEREAS, the **Original American Kazoo Company**, established in 1916 in Eden, New York, pioneered the mass production of kazoos under the leadership of Michael McIntyre, Emil Sorg, and Harry Richardson, creating the iconic "King Kazoo;" and

WHEREAS, McIntyre secured a kazoo patent in 1923 and expanded the company's operations, solidifying its place as a cornerstone of Eden's history and kazoo innovation; and

WHEREAS, through changing ownerships, including Samuel Whetzel and later the Berghash family, the factory adapted to meet growing demand, transitioning into a globally recognized institution; and

WHEREAS, the factory and museum have been lovingly preserved through the efforts of Suburban Adult Services, Inc., Karen Smith, and community grants, continuing to celebrate Eden's role in kazoo history; and

WHEREAS, the **Original American Kazoo Company** remains a cherished institution, celebrating over a century of craftsmanship and musical joy while welcoming visitors from around the world to its historic factory and museum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to proudly honor the **Original American Kazoo Company of Eden, New York**, in recognition of **National Kazoo Day, January 28, 2024**, for its contributions to music, its role in preserving a unique piece of American history, and its unwavering commitment to the Eden community.

JOHN J. MILLS, MINORITY LEADER
Erie County Legislator – 11th District

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

MILLS

In Recognition of National Milk Day, and Richmond Farms
Dairy of North Collins, NY

25PROC. 2-37

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16TH, 2025, A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**In Recognition of National Milk Day,
and Richmond Farms Dairy of North Collins, NY**

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, January 11 marks **National Milk Day**, celebrating the first delivery of milk to homes in sterilized glass bottles in 1878, a transformative milestone that improved the safety, freshness, and accessibility of milk for families everywhere; and

WHEREAS, milk, rich in nine essential nutrients, has long been a vital source of nourishment, playing an integral role in the health and well-being of individuals from infancy through adulthood; and

WHEREAS, **Richmond Farms Dairy**, located in North Collins, NY, has been a vital part of Erie County's agricultural history since 1835, with the **Richmond** family proudly producing milk for their community for nearly two centuries; and

WHEREAS, **Richmond Farms Dairy** exemplifies the dedication and resilience of local dairy farmers, with seven generations of the **Richmond** family tending the land, caring for their herds, and ensuring the highest quality of milk production for the region; and

WHEREAS, the **Richmond family's** commitment to passing down their knowledge and values to future generations ensures that their proud legacy will continue to contribute to the local economy and provide fresh, nutritious milk for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and honor **Richmond Farms Dairy** of North Collins, NY, for its outstanding contributions to Erie County's agricultural heritage, dedication to sustainable dairy farming, and steadfast commitment to nourishing our community with high-quality milk on **National Milk Day, January 11, 2025.**

JOHN J. MILLS, MINORITY LEADER
Erie County Legislator – 11th District

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

MILLS

In Recognition of National Milk Day, and Mammoser Farms
of Eden, NY

25PROC. 2-38

Attachments

STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 16TH, 2025, A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 16th day of January 2025 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

In Recognition of National Milk Day, and Mammoser Farms of Eden, NY

WHEREAS, The Erie County Legislature seeks to honor individuals and institutions of Erie County who enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and

WHEREAS, January 11 marks **National Milk Day**, celebrating the first delivery of milk to homes in sterilized glass bottles in 1878, an innovation that ensured safety, freshness, and accessibility for families across the nation; and

WHEREAS, milk, rich in nine essential nutrients, has long been a vital source of nourishment, playing an integral role in the health and well-being of individuals from infancy through adulthood; and

WHEREAS, **Mammoser Farms**, located in Eden, NY, is a shining example of Erie County's agricultural excellence, producing USDA Certified Organic milk through sustainable practices that protect the environment, enhance soil health, and promote the welfare of livestock; and

WHEREAS, organic farming methods employed by **Mammoser Farms**, including the absence of antibiotics, artificial hormones, and chemical pesticides, result in healthier dairy products that are rich in omega-3 fatty acids and contribute to a cleaner, greener community; and

WHEREAS, **Mammoser Farms** demonstrates a commitment to connecting consumers with the origins of their food by delivering milk produced with integrity, care, and a focus on sustainability and quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and honor **Mammoser Farms** of Eden, NY, for its leadership in organic dairy farming, dedication to sustainable practices, and invaluable contributions to Erie County's agricultural heritage and community well-being on **National Milk Day, January 11, 2025**.

JOHN J. MILLS, MINORITY LEADER
Erie County Legislator – 11th District

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LL INTRO. 2-1 (2024)	LORIGO	The Tax Dollar Disclosure Act
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Attachments

LL INTRO. 2-1 (2024)

LOCAL LAW TO BE ENACTED BY
THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
IN THE
COUNTY OF ERIE
LOCAL LAW INTRO. – NO. 2-1 - 2024
LOCAL LAW – NO. _____ - 2024

A LOCAL LAW requiring transparent, searchable databases for expenditures accessible and available to the public.

SECTION 1. Title

This law shall be entitled and known as “The Tax Dollar Disclosure Act.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Intent

The Erie County Legislature recognizes that taxpayers should have easy access to details on how the county is spending their tax dollars and what performance results are achieved for those expenditures. It is the intent of the Legislature, therefore, to direct the Erie County Comptroller to create and maintain a searchable budget database website detailing where, for what purpose, and what results are achieved for all taxpayer investments in county government.

SECTION 3. Definitions

AGENCY

A county department, division, office, bureau, board, commission, committee, or unit. This includes individual county agencies and programs, as well as those programs and activities that cross agency lines. “County agency” includes all elective offices in Erie County government.

AUDIT OR REPORT

Shall include any audit or report issued by the state, county, legislature, legislative committee, comptroller or executive body relating to the entity or recipient of funds or the budget program/activity or agency.

COMPTROLLER

The Erie County Comptroller.

ENTITY/AND OR RECIPIENTS

A. a corporation,

B. an association,

- C. a union,
- D. a limited liability company,
- E. a limited liability partnership,
- F. any other legal business entity including non-profits,
- G. grantees,
- H. contractors, and
- I. a county, city, or other local government entity.
- J. “Entity/and or recipients” does not include an individual recipient of public assistance.

FUNDING SOURCE

The account from which the expenditure is appropriated, inclusive of all budgeted accounts.

FUNDING ACTION OR EXPENDITURE

Shall include details on the type of spending (grant, contract, appropriations, etc.). This includes tax exemptions or credits. Where possible, a hyperlink to the actual expenditure document (in a format that is, at a minimum, as searchable as a searchable PDF format) shall be provided.

LEGISLATURE

The Erie County Legislature.

SEARCHABLE BUDGET DATABASE WEBSITE

A website that allows the public, at no cost, to:

- A. Search and aggregate information for the following:
 - 1. the name and principal location or residence of the entity/and or recipients of funds,
 - 2. the amount of funds expended,
 - 3. the funding or expending agency,
 - 4. the funding source of the revenue expended,
 - 5. the budget program/activity of the expenditure,

6. a descriptive purpose for the funding action or expenditure,
7. the expected performance outcome for the funding action or expenditure,
8. the past performance outcomes achieved for the funding action or expenditure,
9. any audit or report relating to the entity or recipient of funds or the budget program/activity or agency,
10. and any other relevant information specified by the Comptroller.

B. Programmatically search and access all data in a serialized machine-readable format (such as XML) via a web-services application programming interface.

SECTION 4. Searchable Budget Database Website Created

By October 1, 2024, the Comptroller shall develop and make publicly available a single, searchable budget database website including the required data for the most recent county budget. The website shall be given a unique and simplified website address. Each county agency that maintains a generally accessible Internet site or for which a generally accessible Internet site is maintained shall include a link on the front page of the agency's Internet site to the budget database website.

SECTION 5. Updates

The Comptroller shall provide guidance to agency heads to ensure compliance with this section. The searchable budget database website shall be updated as new data becomes available, if feasible, but no later than 30 days upon receipt of data from the agency.

The Comptroller shall ensure that all data added to the searchable budget database website remains accessible to the public for a minimum of six years.

SECTION 6. Compliance with the Act

The Comptroller shall not be considered in compliance with this act if the data required for the searchable budget database website is not available in a searchable and aggregate manner and/or the public is redirected to other government websites, unless each of those sites has information from all agencies and each category of information required can be searched electronically by field in a single search.

SECTION 7. Severability

If any part or provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in

its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this chapter or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. The County of Erie hereby declares that it would have passed this chapter or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

SECTION 8. Repealer

All ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof inconsistent with this chapter are hereby repealed; provided, however, that such repeal shall not affect or impair any act done or right accruing, accrued, or acquired, or penalty, charge, liability, forfeiture, or punishment incurred or owing prior to the time such repeal takes effect, but the same may be enjoyed, asserted, collected, enforced, prosecuted, or inflicted as fully and to the same extent as if such repeal had not been effected. All actions and proceedings, civil or criminal, commenced under or by virtue of any provision of any County of Erie local law, ordinance or resolution so repealed, and pending immediately prior to the taking effect of such repeal, may be prosecuted and defended to final effect in the same manner as they might if such provisions were not so repealed.

SECTION 9. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

Sponsor: Legislator Lorigo

Co-Sponsors:

SUBJECT

LL INTRO. 3-1 (2024)	LORIGO	The Meetings Transparency Act
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	Attachments
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LL INTRO. 3-1 (2024)

LOCAL LAW TO BE ENACTED BY
THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
IN THE
COUNTY OF ERIE
LOCAL LAW INTRO. – NO. 3-1 - 2024
LOCAL LAW – NO. _____ - 2024

A LOCAL LAW requiring meetings of Erie County Boards and Advisory Committees to provide access to information to the public.

SECTION 1. Title

This law shall be entitled and known as “The Meetings Transparency Act.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Intent

The Erie County Legislature recognizes that taxpayers should have easy access to details discussed and acted upon at public meetings. The Erie County Legislature prepares an agenda which it posts prior to session, streams and has available for replay video of the meeting and posts the minutes of meeting for review. Readily available technology should be used to increase access to similar discussions and actions of commissions and boards.

SECTION 3. Definitions

BOARD

Any government board, commission, council, committee, advisory committee, panel or similar group that is created pursuant to the Erie County Charter, Code or Local Law.

SECTION 4. Meeting Minutes

Boards shall keep written minutes summarizing all official actions, discussions, public comments, and votes taken at each meeting.

Draft minutes shall be made available to the public within 10 business days after each meeting.

Minutes shall be officially approved at the board's next public meeting and a final version posted publicly online within 5 business days after approval. The minutes also must be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature to be included in the official record.

SECTION 5. Notice and Agendas

Boards shall give public notice at least 7 calendar days prior to any regular meeting by prominently posting the date, time, location, and agenda on the general Erie County website, as well as the website of the Erie County Legislature.

For special or emergency meetings, notice should be provided as soon as is practicable.

Meeting agendas shall include a list of topics to be discussed, a list of invited speakers, and indicate if any votes or official actions are anticipated.

SECTION 6. Broadcast and Recording of Meetings

To the extent feasible, boards should also provide a live stream of meetings for public viewing. Erie County is required to make appropriate accommodation for each board to make this possible. If a live stream is not possible, meetings should at minimum be video recorded and the recording should be posted on the general Erie County website.

SECTION 7. Public Access to Records

Boards shall maintain information to be posted on Erie County's website providing access to board member information, past meeting minutes, agendas, recordings, reports, resolutions, and other official documents.

Upon public request, boards shall provide copies or electronic access to such records in a timely manner as allowable by public records laws.

SECTION 8. Public Comment

Boards should provide reasonable opportunities for public comment at each meeting.

Any restrictions on public comment shall be viewpoint-neutral and clearly stated in the board's policies.

SECTION 9. Compliance

Originating governmental bodies shall establish procedures to monitor and ensure compliance with this law.

SECTION 10. Severability

If any part or provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this chapter or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. The County of Erie hereby declares that it would have passed this chapter or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

SECTION 11. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect on September 1, 2024.

Sponsor: Legislator Lorigo

Co-Sponsors:

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LL INTRO. 5-2 (2024)	BARGNESI	Amending the Erie County Charter in Relation to Term Lengths and Term Limits
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	Attachments
LL INTRO. 5-2 (2024)	

COUNTY OF ERIE

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 5-2-2024

LOCAL LAW NO. ____-2024

A Local Law amending Local Law 1-1959, constituting the Erie County Charter, as amended, in relation to the amending of Section 202.2 for the purpose of setting the terms of legislative office to four (4) years and limiting the number of terms for that can be held to three (3) four-year terms for all elected officials.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The intent of this legislation is to amend the terms of office for the Erie County of Legislature to a term of four (4) years and to limit the number of terms for all elected officials that can be served to three (3) four-year terms.

Section 2. CHANGING THE TERM OF LEGISLATIVE OFFICE AND LIMITING THE NUMBER OF TERMS FOR ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Erie County Local Law number one of nineteen hundred fifty-nine, as amended, constituting the Erie County Charter, is hereby amended as follows:

Article 2, Section 202.2. Election and terms of office. County legislators shall first be elected at the general election in the year nineteen hundred sixty-seven and shall assume office on January first, nineteen hundred sixty-eight. All elected County legislators shall hold their respective offices for a term of two years; provided, that legislators elected in the year two thousand twenty-six and in subsequent years shall hold their offices for four years. No person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as County legislator if that person had previously held such office for three or more four-year terms. For the purpose of establishing the term limit, term of office shall be calculated beginning the first day of his or her first full term of office after the effective date hereof.

Article 3, Section 301. The County Executive; election; term; qualifications. The executive branch of County government shall be administered by the County Executive who shall be elected from the County at large. His or her term of office shall begin with the first day of January next following his or her election and shall be for four years, except that the term of the County Executive elected in nineteen hundred sixty shall be for three years. No person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as County Executive if that person had previously held such office for three or more four-year terms. For the purpose of establishing the term limit, term of office shall be calculated beginning the first day of his or her first full term of office after the effective date hereof. At the time of his or her election and throughout his or her term of office he or she shall be a qualified elector of the County. He or she shall devote his or her whole time to the duties of his or

her office and shall hold no other public office, except as provided in section three hundred seven hereof.

Article 18, Section 1801. Election; Comptroller's Act repealed. There shall be a County Comptroller who shall be elected from the County at large. His or her term of office shall begin with the first day of January next following his or her election and shall be for four years. No person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as County Comptroller if that person had previously held such office for three or more four-year terms. For the purpose of establishing the term limit, term of office shall be calculated beginning the first day of his or her first full term of office after the effective date hereof. At the time of his or her election and throughout his or her term of office he or she shall be a qualified elector of the County. He or she shall devote his or her whole time to the duties of his or her office and shall hold no other public office. The Erie County Comptroller's Act, being chapter four hundred twenty three of the laws of nineteen hundred thirty-nine as amended, is hereby repealed, as of January first, nineteen hundred sixty-one.

Article 19, Section 1901. Election. There shall be a County Clerk who shall be elected from the County at large. His or her term of office shall begin with the first day of January next following his or her election, and shall be for four years except as otherwise provided in this Charter. No person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as County Clerk if that person had previously held such office for three or more four-year terms. For the purpose of establishing the term limit, term of office shall be calculated beginning the first day of his or her first full term of office after the effective date hereof. At the time of his or her election and throughout his or her term of office he or she shall be a qualified elector of the County. He or she shall devote his or her whole time to the duties of his or her office and shall hold no other public office.

Article 20, Section 2001. Election. There shall be a District Attorney who shall be elected from the County at large. His or her term of office shall begin with the first day of January next following his or her election, and shall be for four years except as otherwise provided in this Charter. No person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as District Attorney if that person had previously held such office for three or more four-year terms. For the purpose of establishing the term limit, term of office shall be calculated beginning the first day of his or her first full term of office after the effective date hereof. At the time of his or her election and throughout his or her term of office he or she shall be a qualified elector of the County. He or she shall devote his or her whole time to the duties of his or her office and shall hold no other public office.

Article 21, Section 2101. Election. There shall be a Sheriff who shall be elected from the County at large. His or her term of office shall begin with the first day of January next following his or her election and shall be for four years except as otherwise provided in this Charter. No person shall be eligible to be elected to or serve as Sheriff if that person had previously held such office for three or more four-year terms. For the purpose of establishing the term limit, term of office shall be calculated beginning the first day of his or her first full term of office after the effective date hereof. At the time of his or her election and throughout his or her term of office he or she shall be a qualified elector of

the County. He or she shall devote his or her whole time to the duties of his or her office and shall hold no other public office.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect the first day of the first fiscal year after receiving an affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the County of Erie in a manner consistent with the provisions of New York State Municipal Home Rule Law Article 3 and upon its subsequent filing with the New York Secretary of State.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or the application thereof, to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional such order of judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Sponsor:

John J. Bargnesi

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

LL INTRO. 7-1 (2024)	KOOSHOIAN	The STUNT Law
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Attachments

LL INTRO. 7-1

COUNTY OF ERIE

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 7-1 -2024

LOCAL LAW NO. ____-2024

A Local Law, named the “STUNT Law”, requiring Erie County to expand penalties for speed contests, stunt behavior, and other reckless driving behaviors that endanger Erie County residents.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “STUNT Law: Safeguarding Traffic, Unlawful Racing, and Noise Transgressions.”

Section 2. Legislative Purpose and Intent.

This Legislature recognizes that speeding has been a significant factor in numerous motor vehicle fatalities over the past decades, with motor vehicle accidents being one of the leading causes of death for individuals aged 1 to 54.

The Legislature acknowledges the rise in popularity of illegal vehicle sideshows, demonstrations, and contests; often shared on social media, which pose a great risk to participants and spectators, leading to severe physical injuries and even death.

Moreover, illegal vehicle sideshows, contests, street racing, and related stunt behavior not only endanger lives and property but also create excessive noise during night hours, causing disturbances for residents in neighboring areas.

The current penalties for these illegal activities are insufficient in deterring individuals from participating in them.

Therefore, the purpose of this Local Law is to protect Erie County residents by expanding and strengthening laws and penalties related to unlawful speed contests, sideshows, and related stunt behavior.

Section 3. Definitions.

As used in this Local Law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

“Burnout” – To spin a vehicle’s wheel(s) while keeping the vehicle stationary, causing the tires to heat up and emit smoke.

“Drifting” – The intentional oversteering of a vehicle with loss of traction while maintaining control, resulting in a controlled skid or power slide through a turn.

“Doughnut” – A maneuver performed by rotating the rear or front of a vehicle around the opposite set of wheels, creating a circular skid mark pattern on the road surface.

“Revving” – To rapidly increase the engine speed while a vehicle is stationary or in neutral, producing loud noise and/or causing the vehicle to jerk or lurch.

“Sideshow” – An event in which vehicles gather and engage in reckless behavior, such as performing stunts, burnouts, doughnuts/wheelies, drifting, and/or other dangerous maneuvers.

“Street Racing” – The act of racing or competing with one or more vehicles on a public highway, street, or road, whether prearranged or spontaneous.

“Stunt Behavior” – Performing any maneuver with a vehicle that is not part of normal driving or exceeds the safe limits of the vehicle; including but not limited to stunts, revving, burnout, drifting, doughnuts, acrobatic maneuvers, jumps, and other similar actions.

“Wheelie” -- Raising a vehicle to the degree that one or more wheels lose contact with the ground.

Section 4. Prohibitions.

(A) No person shall knowingly participate in, engage in, organize, facilitate, coordinate, plan, aid, or abet any street race, sideshow, contest, exhibition, or stunt behavior involving vehicles upon any public highway, street, sidewalk, public parking lot or area, or any other public property within Erie County.

(B) No person shall knowingly obstruct or attempt to obstruct any public highway, street, or road with a motor vehicle, or any other object used as a blockade for the purpose of permitting any such race, sideshow, contest, exhibition, or stunt behavior.

Section 5. Enforcement and Penalties for Offenses.

(A) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a violation, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 for a first offense, and a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 days, or both, for each subsequent offense.

(B) Any person who causes physical injury to another person or damage to real or personal property while violating any provision of this article shall be liable for the payment of restitution, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 6. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision, or other part of this local law or its application shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of the local law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 7. SEQRA Compliance.

This County Legislature determines that this local law constitutes a “Type II action” pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and that no further action under SEQRA is required.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately following its filing with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Sponsor:
Michael Kooshoian

SUBJECT

INTRO. 2-1	MINORITY CAUCUS	Encouraging NYS to Increase Cooperation with Federal Law Enforcement for the Purposes of Border Security
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25INTRO. 2-1	Attachments
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**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
LEGISLATOR TODARO, MILLS, GREENE, LORIGO**

EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 9:34

Re: Encouraging New York State to increase cooperation with Federal Law Enforcement for the purposes of border security

WHEREAS, New York shares 445 miles of border with the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, offering seventeen land border crossings, the busiest of which are located in the Buffalo Niagara Falls region; and

WHEREAS, according to the US Department of Transportation, nearly 4 million personal vehicles and 900,000 trucks entered the United States from Canada in 2023 through Buffalo Niagara Falls region ports of entry; and

WHEREAS, the northern border, including crossings in the Buffalo Niagara Falls region, has increasingly become a conduit for the trafficking of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, as well as human trafficking, with both issues posing significant threats to public safety and the well-being of communities in New York State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, current New York State laws prevent access to Department of Motor Vehicle records by federal law enforcement agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Border Patrol, and Customs and Border Protection, except by court order or subpoena; and

WHEREAS, these laws prohibit federal immigration officials from obtaining driver information during a border crossing screening, which prevents immigration investigators from determining the potential dangers of individuals entering the United States from Canada; and

WHEREAS, the legislation known as the “Green Light Law,” enacted on June 17, 2019, was responsible for putting these policies in place as well as permitting undocumented immigrants to obtain driver’s licenses; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body passed Intro. 11-2 (2019) on June 20, 2019, by a margin of eight to two, to express Erie County’s opposition to this law; and

WHEREAS, given the large number of crossings from Canada to the United States every year, these policies have untold consequences on public safety and national security.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body urges the Governor and other New York State officials to reconsider the policies that restrict coordination between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies; and

RESOLVED, that this honorable body urges New York State officials to grant federal immigration agencies access to Department of Motor Vehicle records for the purposes of assessing the potential risk factors of drivers entering the United States from Canada through New York; and

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Representatives Nicholas Langworthy and Timothy Kennedy, the WNY Delegations to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Kathy Hochul, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 1E-3

From the Public Safety
Committee

From the Sheriff: Award Electronic Health
Record (EHR) Contract

Attachments

25COMM. 1E-3

JOHN C. GARCIA
SHERIFF
WILLIAM J. COOLEY
UNDERSHERIFF



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
10 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202-3913
(716) 858-7618
FAX: (716) 858-7882
WEBSITE: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff>

SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

December 23, 2024

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Award Electronic Health Record (EHR) Contract

Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authorization to award RFP #2024-038VF to CorrecTek Inc.

Representatives of the Erie County Sheriff's Office will be made available to answer any questions you may have.

Very Yours Truly,

John C. Garcia
Sheriff of Erie County

Attachments

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Re: Award Electronic Health Record (EHR) Contract
Date: December 23, 2024

Summary of Recommended Action

The attached resolution awards RFP #2024-038VF to CorrecTek Inc. and authorizes Erie County to enter into an agreement with CorrecTek Inc. The RFP was issued on September 10, 2024. Proposals were due on November 11, 2024. Five proposals were submitted. Two proposals did not meet the requirements of the RFP, and were rejected. Of the three remaining proposals, CorrecTek Inc. received the highest score.

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

CorrecTek Inc.'s proposal calls for \$118,076 in one-time fees and \$110,676 in annually recurring fees. A breakdown of the cost proposal is below:

License*	\$ 90,986
Options - Required for ECSO*	\$ 24,000
- Sick Call Feed	
- Radiology Interface	
- Surescripts Px Info	
- Surescripts e-Rxing	
- New York HEALTHeLINK	
CorrecTek Cloud EHR*	\$ 3,000
FTP Software*	\$ 90
* One-time Fee Total	\$ 118,076
24/7 Support and Upgrades**	\$ 18,276
Advantage Plan**	\$ 12,000
CBI Dashboard**	\$ 18,000
Cloud**	\$ 62,400
** Recurring Fee Total	\$ 110,676

These costs would be paid out of the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Correctional Health Division Operating Budget (Fund 110, Fund Center 11650), 516020 – Professional Services Contracts and Fees.

Reasons for Recommendation

In June 2025, the Correctional Health Division's contract with its current Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor will expire. The Erie County Sheriff's Office requires a comprehensive, integrated and committed vendor. CorrecTek Inc. scored the highest for the following reasons, among others:

- Bi-directional communication between CorrecTek and SallyPort
- Electronic prescribing with local pharmacies
- Medical records retrieval
- Correctional-specific EHR

Consequences of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office will be without an Electronic Health Record vendor in June 2025.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of the approved resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, County Attorney, Division of Budget and Management, Comptroller, and Erie County Sheriff's Office.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Re: Award Electronic Health Record (EHR) Contract

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Erie County Sheriff's Office to provide quality public safety services to our community by promoting a safe environment through police and citizen interaction with an emphasis on integrity, fairness and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Correctional Health Division is responsible for providing compassionate and clinically appropriate healthcare services to individuals incarcerated within the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, The Correctional Health Division's contract with its current Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor expires in June 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office issued RFP #2024-038VF seeking an Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendor; and

WHEREAS, three qualifying proposals were submitted; and

WHEREAS, CorrecTek Inc., 2929 Broadway, Paducah, KY 42001 received the highest score of the three qualifying proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office recommends awarding the contract for RFP #2024-038VF to CorrecTek Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the agreement is a three (3) year contract commencing on June 1, 2025, with up to two (2), one (1) year extensions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby award RFP #2024-038VF to CorrecTek Inc., 2929 Broadway, Paducah, KY 42001 to provide Electronic Health Record (EHR) services; and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Executive and Sheriff are authorized to enter into an agreement with CorrecTek Inc., 2929 Broadway, Paducah, KY 42001; and be it further

RESOLVED, the agreement shall commence on June 1, 2025 for a term of three (3) years, with up to two (2), one (1) year extensions; and be it further

RESOLVED, the contract shall be funded in the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Correctional Health Division Operating Budget (Fund 110, Fund Center 11650), 516020 – Professional Services Contracts and Fees; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Director of Budget and Management is authorized to make any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, County Attorney, Division of Budget and Management, Comptroller, and Erie County Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-1

MEYERS

Charter Revision Commission Appointment

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-1

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. TIMOTHY J. MEYERS

CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE

7TH DISTRICT LEGISLATOR



EC LEG JAN 2 '25 PM 4:09

3485 Harlem Road

Buffalo, NY 14225

716/833-3054

FAX: 716/833-0514

716/895-1849

Timothy.Meyers@erie.gov

92 Franklin St., 4th Fl.

Buffalo, NY 14202

716/858-8878 FAX:

716/858-8895

January 2, 2025

Ms. Olivia Owens
Clerk Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Clerk Owens,

Pursuant to Local Law 5 (2015) reinstating the Charter Review Commission, I hereby submit the following as my Chairman of the Legislature appointment to the Charter Revision Commission of Erie County:

Shawn Connolly
4911 Bernadette Drive
Hamburg, NY 14075

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Meyers".

Timothy J. Meyers
Chair
Erie County Legislature

E-Mail: Timothy.Meyers@erie.gov

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-2

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Appointments - ECSD No. 8 Board of
Managers

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-2



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 3, 2025

Erie County Legislature
Old County Hall
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Appointments – Erie County Sewer District No. 8 Board of Managers

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the power vested in me by Article 5-A of the County Law and Section 2204 of the County Charter, I, Mark Poloncarz, County Executive of the County of Erie, hereby appoint, and ask for confirmation by your Honorable Body, the enclosed members of the Board of Managers for Erie County Sewer District No. 8.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Joseph Fiegl, P.E. in the Division of Sewerage Management. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
County Executive

MCP: jf

Encl.

Cc: J. Fiegl – Deputy Commissioner

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Appointments – Erie County Sewer District No. 8 Board of Managers

WHEREAS, the County Executive has made an appointment to the Erie County Sewer District No. 8 Board of Managers pursuant to the power vested to him by Article 5-A of the County Law and Section 2204 of the County Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following appointment to the Erie County Sewer District No. 8 Boards of Managers is hereby confirmed:

Erie County Sewer District No. 8

Term Expires

Mr. Shane Kreiger
Village of East Aurora
Administrator
585 Oakwood Ave
East Aurora, New York 14052

12/31/25

Mr. Jeffrey Stoll
Village of East Aurora
General Foreman – Department of Public Works
400 Pine Street Extension
East Aurora, New York 14052

12/31/25

Hon. Raymond Wrazen
Town of Aurora
Councilmember
575 Oakwood Avenue
East Aurora, New York 14052

12/31/25

; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the County Executive, the appointee, and the Division of Sewerage Management.

Shane M. Krieger
1632 Bailey Rd.,
East Aurora, NY 14052

Professional Experience

July 2024-Present Village of East Aurora

July 2024-Present Administrator

Duties: Oversee day to day operations of the Village of East Aurora. Assist department heads. Over see village projects. Managing personnel. Creating and enforcing policies. Serving as public information officer.

February 1992-Present East Aurora/Town of Aurora Police Department

August 2015 – June 2024 Chief of Police

Duties: Overseeing all aspects of the police department for the Village of East Aurora and the Town of Aurora, as well as our public safety answering point (PSAP). Develop and operate within a 2.4-million-dollar budget for 18 fulltime sworn officers, one part-time officer, 5 full-time and 6 part-time public safety dispatchers. The police department is charged with serving a community of 14,000+ residents, covering 36 square miles. The PSAP is the dispatch center for our police department along with dispatching fire and EMS calls for 6 towns and 11 volunteer fire departments. Other responsibilities include developing and writing department policies, overseeing large events and disasters, hiring, promoting, and developing relationships with other departments and law enforcement agencies in the area to create quality working relationships.

July 2009 - August 2015 Lieutenant

Duties: Supervising the patrol officers and PSAP personnel on a shift; leads police functions while overseeing large community events; oversees department cellblocks, including regular inspections and audits; investigate civilian complaints against officers or other department personnel under direct command; oversee department Datamaster DMT (breath test unit and associated paper work); in charge of department narcotics utilized in canine training and secured from DEA, including regular inspections and audits of narcotics; responsible of all video evidence from both in car cameras and body worn cameras; trained Officer Waldron and K-9 Clip for NYS DCJS K-9 Team certification

September 2007 - July 2014

Canine Handler

Duties: Initiated canine unit, which was absent from the department for 20 years; wrote department policy and procedures for canine unit; trained with canine in both passive alert narcotic detection and patrol; responsible for care of canine and department canine vehicle; utilize canine in every practical situation for best results in the mission of the police department

April 1998- August 2015

Field Officer Trainer

Duties: Train new recruits in duties of a police officer, as well as the department rules and regulations and Village, Town, County, State and Constitutional laws

February 1992-July 2009

Patrolman

Duties: Served the public through community policing and upholding all laws relevant to the Village of East Aurora and Town of Aurora

July 1990-January 1992

Ames Department Store Security

October 1990-January 1992 Plain Clothes Loss Prevention Detective

Duties: Prevent financial loss of Ames Department Stores, either by external shop lifting or internal theft

July 1990- October 1990

Uniformed Loss Prevention Officer

Duties: Be a visible deterrent to theft and inspect merchandise exiting the store

Certifications/Trainings

July 2015 - 2023	NYSACOP - Annual conference and training
May 2015	New York State Intelligence Center - Field Intelligence Officer Course
May 2015	FBI-LEEDA - Law Enforcement Executive Development
February 2015	FEMA - Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery
May 2014	John E. Reid and Associates - Hiring The Best: Applicant Interviewing Techniques and Strategies
April 2014	Best Practices Seminar
October 2013	FBI-LEEDA - Great Lakes Leadership Seminar
May 2013	Northeast Counterdrug Training Center - Interview and Interrogation
December 2012	NFTA - Flying While Armed
March 2010	What Do They See When They See You Coming?

September 2010	Desert Snow – Specialized passenger vehicle criminal and terrorist identification and apprehension
November 2009	IS-00200.a ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents – FEMA
November 2009	IS-00700.a National Incident Management System - FEMA
October 2009	Police Supervision Course, Erie County Law Enforcement Training Academy
April 2007	Police Interrogation and Listening Skills, Hilbert College
September 2007	Police Canine narcotics detection and patrol canine team training
November 2007	Police Patrol Canine Team Certification, NYSDCJS
October 2007	Police Narcotics Detection Canine Team Certification, NYSDCJS
June 2007	Highway Interdiction -US Department of Justice/DEA
April 2006	IS-00100 Introduction to the Incident Command System - FEMA
April 2006	IS-00700 National Incident Management System - FEMA
April 1998	Narcotic Identification, O.D.V. Incorporated
April 1998	Narcotic/Dangerous Drugs and Patrol, Narcotic Enforcement Officer Association
June 1996	Commercial Vehicles Enforcement, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
March 1994	Juvenile Custody, NYS Commission of Corrections
June 1993	Drug Law Enforcement Training, US Department of Justice/DEA
January 1993	Breath Test Operations, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
April 1992	Emergency Care-First Responder, Emergency Medical Services Division
December 1992	Hazmat Emergency Response Course, Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center
September 1992	Radar Operation, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Education

July 1992	New York State Municipal Police Training Council, Basic Course for Police Officers, Graduated
June 1991	Erie Community College, State University of New York Graduated with Associate in Applied Science, Criminal Justice-Police Option
June 1987	East Aurora High School, Graduated

Awards

July 2011	Certificate of Recognition Award, East Aurora/Town of Aurora Police Department, Village of East Aurora
January 2008	Outstanding Achievement Award, East Aurora/Town of Aurora Police Department
May 2003	American Heart Saver Award, American Heart Association
January 2002	Accommodation from the East Aurora Fire Department
October 2001	2001 Hero Award, 100 Club of Buffalo
September 2001	Proclamation from the Town of Aurora Government
September 1997	Nominee for NYS Project Zero Award, Nominated by the Chief of Police of East Aurora/Town of Aurora Police Department
March 1994	Meritorious Certificate/ Sharpshooter, East Aurora/Town of Aurora Police Department
1992, '93, '95, '96	Erie County Stop DWI Award Recipient

Memberships

Erie County Association of Chiefs of Police
 President 2018, Vice President 2017

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police
 Zone 10 Representative Board of Governors 2022 – June 2024

International Association of Chiefs of Police

JEFFREY M. STOLL

GENERAL FOREMAN

Confident, experienced worker with excellent communication skills. Committed to serving the community and resolving conflicts, while providing a strong work ethic and positive work environment.

CONTACT INFO

716-652-6057
Jeff.stoll@east-aurora.ny.us
www.east-aurora.ny.us/
East Aurora, NY

EXPERIENCE

VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LABORER, Public Works July 2011- March 2015

Manual labor including shoveling and salting village properties and crosswalks, picking up leaves and brush, cleaning equipment and buildings, maintenance on buildings and village properties. Hot patch and paving roads throughout the year, flagging and assisting with traffic as well as assisting with water leaks from time to time. Assisting with Village events that required road closures or detour signs as well as Main Street seasonal decorations.

WATER FOREMAN, Public Works April 2015-September 2020

Manage Village water supply including water leaks, water flow tests and daily/monthly water samples for chlorine and chemicals. Maintain Village hydrants and flush out storm sewer lines regularly. Mark water line locations for utilities dig requests/projects. Maintain water meters and complete water reads quarterly for water billing.

STREETS FOREMAN, Public Works September 2020-November 2024

Maintain Village streets including paving and patching roads yearly, plowing and salting roads, snow removal, leaf and brush collection, and striping. Manage Village trees, working with arborist and Village Tree board to ensure that Village trees are trimmed and cared for appropriately and accurately. Ensure seasonal decorations and flags are placed correctly.

GENERAL FOREMAN, Public Works December 2024-present

Oversee the Streets and Water department and Public Works Sr. Clerk. Ensure work is being completed timely and efficiently and manage and personnel issues. Work with Village heads to ensure that issues are addressed and resolved. Assist residents with questions and concerns regarding property issues.

SKILLS

- Communication
- Street Repair
- Water Leaks
- Heavy Equipment Operation
- Project Management

RAYMOND M. WRAZEN

18 Highland Drive ■ East Aurora, New York USA 14052 ■ 716-949-9953 ■ wrazenra@gmail.com
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/raymondwrazen>

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Supply Chain Manager with invaluable knowledge of managing projects, resources and staff in an effective and efficient manner. Highly focused with a comprehensive understanding of sales, forecasting, demand and production planning, logistics, procurement and the entire supply chain. Strong experience in a hands-on operational role. Demonstrated ability to build consensus, develop and implement strategies, drive projects and lead cross-functional teams. Consistently drive innovation and process improvement. Highly proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Visio, Access, Microsoft Project, Cognos, JD Edwards, Retail Link, IRI, Blue Planner, Oracle Demantra, Quick Books and Forecast Pro. Working knowledge of Manugistics, SAP, Oracle MRP software.

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Demand Planning | ▪ Sales & Operations Planning | ▪ Customer Service |
| ▪ Inventory Planning & Forecasting | ▪ Team Development & Leadership | ▪ Project Management |
| ▪ Cross-functional Team Leader | ▪ Manufacturing Strategy | ▪ Process Improvement |
| ▪ Problem Solving | ▪ Presentation Skills | ▪ Quantitative Analysis |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Well Worth Products Buffalo, New York

Director of Operations (1/3/2017 — 10/19/20)

- Manage the weekly demand review process and development of finished good product and component purchase orders. Align product mix and volume with Well Worth financial plans. Manage the balance of supply and demand.
- Day to day contact for all Plant Operations, Supply Planning, Purchasing and Logistics functions.
- Create and monitor plant Operations budget and inventory targets.
- Evaluate supplier proposals. Negotiate services, materials and product for optimal price, quality and on time delivery.
- Hire, train and develop all Operations and Customer Service staff. Ensure that plant equipment is maintained, personal are trained in their operation and policies and procedures are in place for optimal efficiency and safety.
- Reorganized warehouse layout to reduce material handling and labor by 25%.
- Responsible for the successful launch of Quickbooks 2017 Advanced Pricing and Inventory.
- Reduced year over year total warehouse inventory by 30%.
- Maintained an average 99% on time delivery for year to date shipments.

The Mentholatum Company Orchard Park, New York

Demand Planning Manager (9/22/2014 — 6/1/2016)

- Manage the consensus demand review process and development of product demand for use in the Sales and Operations Planning cycle. Align product mix and volume with the operations and financial plans.
- Review historical trends, research demand drivers and prepare demand data using appropriate statistical models.
- Model consumption driven statistical forecast using Forecast Pro software.
- Day to day contact for supply planning to manage change and balance supply and demand.
- Monitor the demand plan process using forecast accuracy and bias results to drive an improved demand plan.
- Improved Brand forecast accuracy KPI by 10%. Top 35 forecast accuracy KPI by 12%
- Reduced year over year total inventory by 5%.
- Maintained an average 99% on time delivery for entire fiscal year.
- Provide all key demand plan reporting and decks for Demand and Leadership team meetings.
- Chair the monthly Management Business Review with the Leadership team.
- Responsible for the successful launch of Forecast Pro statistical demand modeling software in 2015.

Cabelas Cheektowaga, New York

Inventory Merchandise Specialist (7/1/2014 — 9/17/2014)

- Conducted weekly cycle counts for store level and warehouse inventory.
- Resolved inventory discrepancies and identify root cause.
- Ensured timely receipt of inbound inventory while maintaining accurate location control within warehouse.
- Ensured effective Replenishment process by reviewing and adjusting min-max stock requirements.

FISHER-PRICE, INC., East Aurora, New York

Senior Manager Planning and Inventory (7/1/2002 — 1/3/2014)

- Led and mentored the Fisher-Price North America brand demand planning team, which supports annual sales volume of \$ 1.4 billion dollars.
- Managed the build plan across 5 owned manufacturing plants and 30+ vendors. Ensured North American market support with clearly defined priorities, due dates and objectives.
- Led efforts to foster best practices and lead continuous improvement within department and division. Annually review policies and procedures with the goal to drive out waste and avoid roadblocks.
- Identify key product issues. As appropriate report to management and offer solutions or contingency plans for their resolution.
- Supported quick response fill rate for Top 4 accounts of over 90%. Ensured product availability for account advertising and promotional plans.
- Successfully balanced inventory to meet sales targets and monthly inventory goals. 100% attainment of quarterly inventory targets over a 10 year period.
- Define and report to management key inventory and performance metrics.
- Managed new product planning to support account planogram set and promotional requirements.
- Project managed promotional assembly team which includes Sales, Sales support, packaging and purchasing. Managed material requisitions for promotional assembly projects, which supports annual sales volume of \$20 million dollars.
- Drove long-term capacity and supply strategies for key components.
- Led Kaizen and task force for reduction of Baby Gear lead-time.
- Performed product capacity analysis and review for worldwide support. Initiated duplicate and replacement tooling approvals.
- Managed world-wide capacity planning and product allocation issues.
- Managed end-of-lifecycle product management for both finished goods and component inventory. Performed finished goods and material obsolescence review and disposition.
- Provided logistics quarterly volume analysis to balance shipping container requirements and contract warehousing space thus ensuring that warehouse space matched volume requirements across multiple locations.
- Demand Planned and managed inventory for Fisher-Price on-line direct to consumer business.
- Consistently drove innovation and process improvement through root cause analysis. Drove reduction in demand volatility to stabilize production plan achieved with a 14% reduction in year over year demand changes.
- Project Managed Supply Chain team support of Lead paint recall 2007.

Manager Product Availability and Account Allocations (2/1/1990 — 6/30/2002)

- Managed Fisher-Price demand planning and account allocation team. Approved account ad plans, ensuring alignment with budget and operational goals.
- Created account Ad database and fair share approval process.
- Allocated key product to support planned account advertising and quick response requirements.
- Projected inventory shortages to ensure adequate customer response, working closely with the Sales Management team.
- Lead in department ad hoc reporting and systems requirements. Oversaw accurate database management.
- Fisher-Price transition Team Lead. Mattel OMNI order management implementation.
- Project Managed Supply Chain team support of Power Wheels recall 1998.

Customer Service Supervisor (1/1/1988 – 1/31/1990)

- Managed all aspects of the regional account customer service team including hiring, scheduling and performance.
- Managed account orders and fill rate for all regional accounts.
- Led department management reporting.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, SUNY Buffalo State University, Buffalo, New York

MEMBERSHIP

APICS Buffalo Chapter., Buffalo, New York

INTERESTS

Town of Aurora Zoning Board of Appeals., Aurora, New York

Alternate Board Member (8/1/2022 — Present)

- Interpret zoning regulations
- Issue or deny appeals for zoning variances

Explore Buffalo., Buffalo, New York

Tour Assistant (3/3/2021 — Present)

- Assist Docent in logistical and administrative requirements
- Check in and welcome guests via VBO Mobile app
- Deliver opening or closing "Elevator pitch" to tour patrons
- Keep guest safe when crossing streets or negotiating difficult terrain
- Communicate key information to docent
- **Open Doors Building Coordinator**
 - 2021 Quirk House
 - 2022 Al Cohen Bakery

SCORE Buffalo-Niagara., Buffalo, New York

Certified Mentor (11/1/2013 — Present)

- Conduct one on one new business mentoring sessions
- Advise on writing a business plan
- Advise on how to obtain business funding
- Assist at SCORE business workshops
- December 2015 Distinguished Service Award

Aurora Arsenal Soccer Club., East Aurora, New York

President (1/1/2007 — 1/1/2019)

- Ensure that the Aurora Arsenal Soccer Club (AASC) operations are managed in a timely and efficient manner
- Appoint committees as required to carry out AASC business
- Work with the board to develop a dynamic strategic roadmap for the AASC
- Preside at all meetings of the AASC, and establish the agenda
- Act as principal representative of the AASC
- Negotiate agreements and contracts with Town of Aurora and key suppliers for the AASC

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-3

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Assembly & Senate Bill Request for
Legislation Authorizing Extension of
Additional Sales and Compensating Use Tax

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-3



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 3, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Assembly and Senate Bill Request for Legislation Authorizing Extension of Additional 1.0% and Additional 0.75% Sales and Compensating Use Tax
Immediate Consideration Requested

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed for your approval the introductory request in the multi-step process of reauthorizing the County's imposition of the sales and compensating use tax for the period December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027 at the combined total rate of 8.75%, the same rate it has been for two decades, by authorizing the additional 1.0% and additional 0.75% sales and compensating use tax.

The County's authority to impose the additional 1.0% and additional 0.75% sales and compensating use tax expires on November 30, 2025. Every two years the County must request the introduction and approval of legislation in the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate to allow Erie County to continue this critical revenue stream. This request is the first of a multi-step process requiring the approval of your Honorable Body.

Because this reauthorization process is lengthy and takes months to complete, requiring multiple approvals by your Honorable Body as well as the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate, I am requesting immediate consideration so that the County can formally request the introduction of bills in the State Legislature.

Attached for your information, you will also find a copy of the NYS Bill extending the additional sales and compensating use tax rates along with a sponsors' memorandum in support of same. Please note however, that the resolution submitted for consideration today simply requests that those lawmakers who serve as Western New York's delegation in Albany, sponsor and introduce this Bill to the collective membership of both the Assembly and the Senate. Once the Bill has been introduced and assigned bill numbers, we will again ask your Honorable Body to pass respective home rule requests for the consideration of the Assembly and Senate.

Sales Tax Extension Request Letter to the Legislature

January 3, 2025

Page 2 of 2

After the Bill is passed in both the Assembly and the Senate and the Governor has signed the Bill into law, your Honorable Body will be presented with a final resolution to formally amend the Erie County Sales and Use Tax Resolution to incorporate the new State Legislation. The County Attorney's Office will then comply with the filing requirements set out in New York State Tax Law and the two extensions will be complete.

As you are all aware, failure to approve the requested action would result in the loss of approximately \$390 million in revenue, some of which is shared with local governments, and have a devastating impact on our ability to provide the services our constituents have come to expect. All non-mandated departments and offices would, in effect, cease to exist, or the county would have to nearly double our property tax rate to make up for the loss of revenue.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Division of Budget and Management or the County Attorney's Office. Thank you for your consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/jz
Enclsoures

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Office of the County Executive
Re: Assembly and Senate Bill Request for Legislation Authorizing Extension of Additional 1.0% and Additional 0.75% Sales and Compensating Use Tax
Date: January 3, 2025

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature timely adopt the attached resolution which requests the introduction of bills in the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate authorizing Erie County to continue the imposition of the additional 1.0% and additional 0.75% rate of sales and compensating use tax in Erie County during the period from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Positive - \$390 million in annual revenue.

REASONS FOR RECOMENDATION

A resolution requesting introduction of State Legislation to the Assembly and Senate is required prior to subsequent action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A request for the introduction of a State Bill authorizing Erie County to continue the imposition of its additional 1.0% and additional 0.75% sales and compensating use tax during the period of December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027 is needed for Erie County's sponsoring Assembly member and Senator member to act on such request.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to extend the additional 1.0% and additional 0.75% sales tax rate would mean the annual loss of \$390 million in County revenue, some of which is shared with local governments, and would devastate the operation of County government and its delivery of services. All discretionary departments and offices would incur near total program and service cuts, and many of the services and programs our residents rely upon would cease to exist, or your Honorable Body would be forced to nearly double the property tax rate to make up for the loss of sales and compensating use tax revenue.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The State Bill will be introduced in both the Assembly and the Senate and assigned respective Bill numbers. Once the Bill numbers are assigned, your Honorable Body will be presented with Home Rule Requests which will ask the Assembly and Senate to pass the Bill. Once passed by both bodies, the Governor will sign the Bills into law and your Honorable Body will then be presented with a final resolution amending the Erie County Sales and Use Tax Resolution to incorporate the newly authorized extension. A certified copy of the adopted resolution amending

the Erie County Sales and Compensating Use Tax Resolution will then be filed by the County Attorney with the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance in Albany.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, Erie County is requesting authorization to continue to impose an additional one percent and additional three quarters percent sales and compensating use tax pursuant to New York State Tax Law 1210 (i)(4); and

WHEREAS, the revenue anticipated from this additional tax will allow the County of Erie to continue to provide services deemed vital to the community, while maintaining a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, Erie County derives all of its tax imposing authority directly from State law; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Law has prepared the necessary State authorizing legislation to effectuate the continued imposition of sales and compensation use tax; and

WHEREAS, Erie County's authority to impose its additional 1.0% and additional 0.75% sales tax rate will expire at midnight on November 30, 2025 absent enactment of new State authorizing legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby memorializes to the NYS Assembly and Senate, particularly those lawmakers who serve as Western New York's delegation in Albany, that immediate introduction of new State authorizing legislation is needed so that Erie County can continue to impose its additional 1.0% and its additional 0.75% sales tax rate for the period beginning December 1, 2025 and ending November 30, 2027; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, as the proposed Bill indicates, if the county of Erie imposes the additional one percent rate of sales and compensating use taxes authorized by item (i) of clause (4) of subparagraph (i) of the opening paragraph of section twelve hundred ten of New York State Tax Law (NYSTL) during the period beginning January first, two thousand seven, or thereafter, the county shall allocate each calendar year the first twelve million five hundred thousand dollars of the net collections from such one percent rate to the cities of such county and the area in such county outside its cities to be applied or distributed in the same manner and proportion as the net collections for such cities and area are applied or distributed under the revenue distribution agreement entered into pursuant to the authority of subdivision (c) of section twelve hundred sixty-two of NYSTL in effect on January first, two thousand six, and subject to all provisions of such agreement governing the net collections for such cities and area and shall retain the remainder of such net collections for any county purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Assemblyman _____ and Senator _____, together with the Erie County Division of Budget and Management, the County Attorney, and the County Comptroller.

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to the imposition of
additional rates of sales and compensating use taxes
by Erie County

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Clause 4 of subparagraph (i) of the opening paragraph of section 1210 of the tax law, as amended by chapter 175 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(4) the county of Erie is hereby further authorized and empowered to adopt and amend local laws, ordinances or resolutions imposing such taxes (i) at a rate which is one percent additional to the three percent rate authorized above in this paragraph for such county for the period beginning January tenth, nineteen hundred eighty-eight and ending November thirtieth, two thousand [twenty-five] twenty-seven; and (ii) at a rate which is three-quarters of one percent additional to the three percent rate authorized above in this paragraph, and which is also additional to the one percent rate also authorized above in this clause for such county, for the period beginning December first, two thousand eleven, and ending November thirtieth, two thousand [twenty-five] twenty-seven;

§2. Subdivision 2 of Section 1262-q of the tax law, as amended by chapter 175 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Net collections from the additional three-quarters of one percent rate of sales and compensating use taxes which the county may impose during the period commencing December first, two thousand eleven, and ending November thirtieth, two thousand [twenty-five] twenty-seven, pursuant to the authority of item (ii) of clause (4) of subparagraph (i) of the opening paragraph of section twelve hundred ten of this article shall be used by the county solely for county purposes and shall not be subject to any revenue distribution agreement the county entered into pursuant to the authority of subdivision (c) of section twelve hundred sixty-two of this part.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

SPONSORS MEMO:

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Senate Rules**

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to the
imposition of additional rates of sales and
compensating use taxes by Erie County

Bill Number:

Sponsor:

Purpose: To authorize Erie County to impose an additional one percent rate and an additional three-quarters of one percent rate of sales and compensating use taxes, for the period commencing December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2027, and to provide for retention for solely county purposes of all net collections from the additional three-quarters of one percent rate.

Summary of Provisions: Bill section 1 would amend clause 4 of subparagraph (i) of the opening paragraph of section 1210 of the Tax Law, which authorizes counties and cities to impose sales and use taxes at specified rates. Clause 4 would authorize Erie County to impose an additional one percent rate and an additional three-quarters of one percent rate of such taxes for the period commencing December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2027. Currently the county is authorized to impose these two additional rates through November 30, 2025 pursuant to section 1210 of the Tax Law.

Bill section 2 would amend paragraph 2 of Tax Law section 1262-q to continue to provide that net collections from the additional three-quarters of one percent rate shall be used by the county solely for county purposes and shall not be subject to any revenue distribution agreement the county entered into under section 1262(c) of the Tax Law.

Bill section 3 provides that the bill would take effect immediately.

Existing Law: Section 1210 of the Tax Law authorizes counties and cities to impose sales and compensating use taxes generally at a rate not to exceed three percent. More than 50 counties outside New York City and five cities are each authorized to impose an additional rate of tax in excess of three percent. Pursuant to section 1210(a), a county or city can impose the “general” sales and use taxes, consisting of the six subdivisions of section 1105 of the Tax Law, which imposes the State’s sales taxes, and of the related compensating use taxes in section 1110 of the Tax Law, which imposes the State’s use taxes. Or, pursuant to section 1210(b), a county or city can impose one or more of the taxes described in section 1105(b), (d), (e), or (f), which are

known as the “segmented taxes,” plus related use taxes. Erie County currently imposes the “general” sales and use taxes at the rate of three percent. The county is also authorized to, and does, impose an additional one percent rate pursuant to section 1210 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2025. The county is also authorized to, and does, impose an additional three-quarters of one percent rate pursuant to section 1210 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2025.

Justification: Erie County has requested authorization to impose an additional one percent and three-quarters percent sales and compensating use tax. The revenue anticipated from this additional tax will allow the County of Erie to continue to provide services deemed vital to the community while maintaining a balanced budget.

Budget Implications: None to the State. Failure to extend the additional one percent and three-quarters percent sales and compensating use tax rate would mean the annual loss of nearly \$390 million in County revenue and would create a severe challenge to the continued operation of County government and its delivery of services. This loss in revenue would require an exorbitant property tax increase of 100 percent, more than doubling the existing levy. In addition, it would be likely that entire departments not mandated by state law would be eliminated and Erie County would put a stop to all capital work, including road and bridge reconstruction throughout our community. Finally, Erie County shares its sales tax with its municipalities and school districts. If the sales tax extension is not approved, Erie County’s cities, towns, and villages would lose \$12.5 million annually.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect immediately.

SPONSORS MEMO:

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rules**

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to the
imposition of additional rates of sales and
compensating use taxes by Erie County

Bill Number:

Sponsor:

Purpose: To authorize Erie County to impose an additional one percent rate and an additional three-quarters of one percent rate of sales and compensating use taxes, for the period commencing December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2027, and to provide for retention for solely county purposes of all net collections from the additional three-quarters of one percent rate.

Summary of Provisions: Bill section 1 would amend clause 4 of subparagraph (i) of the opening paragraph of section 1210 of the Tax Law, which authorizes counties and cities to impose sales and use taxes at specified rates. Clause 4 would authorize Erie County to impose an additional one percent rate and an additional three-quarters of one percent rate of such taxes for the period commencing December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2027. Currently the county is authorized to impose these two additional rates through November 30, 2025 pursuant to section 1210 of the Tax Law.

Bill section 2 would amend paragraph 2 of Tax Law section 1262-q to continue to provide that net collections from the additional three-quarters of one percent rate shall be used by the county solely for county purposes and shall not be subject to any revenue distribution agreement the county entered into under section 1262(c) of the Tax Law.

Bill section 3 provides that the bill would take effect immediately.

Existing Law: Section 1210 of the Tax Law authorizes counties and cities to impose sales and compensating use taxes generally at a rate not to exceed three percent. More than 50 counties outside New York City and five cities are each authorized to impose an additional rate of tax in excess of three percent. Pursuant to section 1210(a), a county or city can impose the “general” sales and use taxes, consisting of the six subdivisions of section 1105 of the Tax Law, which imposes the State’s sales taxes, and of the related compensating use taxes in section 1110 of the Tax Law, which imposes the State’s use taxes. Or, pursuant to section 1210(b), a county or city can impose one or more of the taxes described in section 1105(b), (d), (e), or (f), which are

known as the “segmented taxes,” plus related use taxes. Erie County currently imposes the “general” sales and use taxes at the rate of three percent. The county is also authorized to, and does, impose an additional one percent rate pursuant to section 1210 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2025. The county is also authorized to, and does, impose an additional three-quarters of one percent rate pursuant to section 1210 of the Tax Law for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2025.

Justification: Erie County has requested authorization to impose an additional one percent and three-quarters percent sales and compensating use tax. The revenue anticipated from this additional tax will allow the County of Erie to continue to provide services deemed vital to the community while maintaining a balanced budget.

Budget Implications: None to the State. Failure to extend the additional one percent and three-quarters percent sales and compensating use tax rate would mean the annual loss of nearly \$390 million in County revenue and would create a severe challenge to the continued operation of County government and its delivery of services. This loss in revenue would require an exorbitant property tax increase of 100 percent, more than doubling the existing levy. In addition, it would be likely that entire departments not mandated by state law would be eliminated and Erie County would put a stop to all capital work, including road and bridge reconstruction throughout our community. Finally, Erie County shares its sales tax with its municipalities and school districts. If the sales tax extension is not approved, Erie County’s cities, towns, and villages would lose \$12.5 million annually.

Effective Date: This act shall take effect immediately.

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-4

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR)
Project

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-4



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 3, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR) Project

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning requesting legislative authorization to execute an agreement to accept \$2,375,262 in U.S. Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Smart Manufacturing and Recycling Tactics for States funding, establish a grant budget, create a grant-funded position to manage the project, and enter into contracts with the two sub-awardees - the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the Monarch of Infinite Possibilities, LLC.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb
Enclosure

cc: Daniel R. Castle, Commissioner
Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Re: RE: Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR) Project
Date: January 3, 2025

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to authorize the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to execute the necessary agreements to accept \$2,375,262 in grant funding from the US Department of Energy (DOE), create a grant funded position, establish a program budget, and execute contracts with sub-awardees - NYS Center for Sustainable Materials Management housed at State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) and Monarch of Infinite Possibilities, LLC. The project will create a robust alkaline and rechargeable battery education and collection system in Erie County and at selected SUNY Colleges or Universities throughout the State to support the Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR) Project.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no fiscal impact associated with the project. The requested staff position and program expenses will be funded by the grant. All grant match will be provided as in-kind match from the County and project partners.

Fiscal implications of adding the Principal Compliance Specialist (JG14) position in DEP:

<u>Annualized Salary</u>	\$114,333
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<u>Salary for Balance of Year</u>	\$114,333
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Funding Source

Grant Source:	SAP# 162BEAR2530
Grant Duration:	1/1/2025 to 12/31/2029
Grant Funding:	\$2,375,262
Alternate Source of Funding if Grant is not renewed:	None

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The five-year project will create a local, robust, equitable education program to encourage the safe handling of alkaline and rechargeable batteries, inform residents about the fire and safety hazards associated with rechargeable batteries, and establish a collection system to collect rechargeable batteries for recycling and keep them out of municipal waste streams.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The DOE Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains issued a call for a funding opportunity created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Smart Manufacturing and Recycling Tactics for States (SMART) to establish secure and resilient domestic clean energy supply chains by expanding both statewide and local battery recycling programs to increase recovery of critical materials and reintroduce them to the supply chain.

Lithium-ion batteries can overheat and explode if they are overcharged, short-circuited, or damaged. This can happen during transport, at landfill, recycling centers and in residential settings. Thus, this application was developed in coordination with the Erie County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Fire Safety Division to engage with fire departments directly to enhance safety issues surrounding lithium-ion batteries.

The BEAR project supports domestic manufacturing by collecting and reintroducing lithium ion and other critical metals back into the supply chain where they can be reused. Erie County will work with partners to create education and outreach about safe usage and handling of rechargeable batteries, what to do during a battery fire, and how to recycle all types of batteries correctly. The BEAR project seeks to keep rechargeable batteries out of landfills and municipal recycling facilities, reducing risks to first responders and sanitation workers and releases of hazardous materials to the environment.

Duties required by the position required by Law or Contract: Yes, Contract

Position classification: Job Grade 14

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The DEP, along with the two other sub-awardees, will forfeit DOE funding.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The necessary contracts with DOE and sub-awardees will be executed, a grant budget will be established, and the new grant-funded position will be created in DEP.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Battery Education and Recycling (BEAR) Project

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a grant of \$2,375,262 to fund the BEAR Project to Erie County and two sub-awardees, NYS Center for Sustainable Materials Management housed at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the Monarch of Infinite Possibilities LLC; and

WHEREAS, the BEAR Project will create a local and robust education program to encourage the safe handling of all batteries, inform residents about the fire and safety hazards associated with rechargeable batteries, and establish a collection system to collect rechargeable batteries for recycling and keep them out of municipal waste streams; and

WHEREAS, to proceed with the project it is necessary for Erie County to execute an agreement with DOE, adopt a project budget; contract with the two sub-awardees, and create a new Principal Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG14) position in DEP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and/or the Deputy County Executive to execute the necessary agreements with DOE for the purpose of establishing the “Battery Education and Recycling Project”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive and/or the Deputy County Executive to execute the necessary agreements with sub-awardees SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) Research Foundation and the Monarch of Infinite Possibilities LLC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to accept \$2,375,262 from the DOE and be available as a multi-year grant to the Department of Environment and Planning, in Fund 281, Fund Center 1620040, as follows:

Department of Environment and Planning
Battery Education and Recycling Project
162BEAR2529
January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2029

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
414000	Federal Aid Revenues	<u>\$2,375,262</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$2,375,262</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
500000	Full Time - Salaries	\$ 589,895
501000	Overtime	15,000
502000	Fringe Benefits	265,452
510000	Local Mileage	15,075
510100	Out of Area Travel	20,000
516020	Professional Service Contracts & Fees	1,305,818
530000	Other Expenses	45,000
545000	Rental Charges	25,000
916700	ID Emergency Services	\$ 94,022
	TOTAL	<u>\$2,375,262</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to create one (1) full-time Principal Environmental Compliance Specialist, Job Group 14, Step D, CSEA (B-100 # 14583) effective January 2, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to amend the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' 2025 General Fund Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 16700) to be amended as follows:

Department of Homeland Security and Emergence Services
Fund 110, Funds Center 16700

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
510200	Training and Education	\$19,022
561410	Lab & Technical Equipment	75,000
916700	ID Emergency Services	<u>(\$94,022)</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 0</u>

RESOLVED, that authorization is given to the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with state and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extensions that may be permitted by the grantor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Office of the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, and the Department of Environment and Planning.

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-5

COUNTY CLERK

Request Regarding Comm. 1M-2 - NFTA's
2024 Corporate Board Resolution

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-5



EC LEG JAN 3 '25 PM 12:34

COUNTY OF ERIE

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
COUNTY CLERK

January 3, 2025

The Honorable Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: COMM. 1M-2 – NFTA's 2024 Corporate Board Resolution – Adoption
of Operating and Capital Budgets**

Dear Honorable Members:

I write in regards to COMM. 1M-2, which is a proposed resolution by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and Niagara Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. ("NFTA") to adopt their Operating and Capital Budgets for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. It is my understanding that COMM. 1M-2 will be discussed at the next Economic Development Committee meeting.

Given that the NFTA is seeking approval, in part, for anticipated revenue generated by the Erie County Clerk's Office, I am respectfully requesting to be heard at the Economic Development Committee meeting on this item.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael P. Kearns".

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
Erie County Clerk

MPK/wal

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-6	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Acceptance of State Aid for the STSJP Funding
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	Attachments
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25COMM. 2E-6



2025 JAN 10 25 PM 3:06

COUNTY OF ERIE
MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Acceptance of State Aid for the Supervision and Treatment Services for
Juveniles Program (STSJP) Funding**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services – Youth Bureau is seeking approval to accept State Aid for the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in the amount of \$1,028,116 and to enter into contract with community providers to service eligible youth.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, please contact Commissioner Karen Rybicki at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services -Youth Bureau
Re: Acceptance of State Aid for the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) Funding
Date: January 10, 2025

SUMMARY

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$1,028,116 in State Aid for the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to enter into contract with community providers to service Youthful Offenders (YO), Adolescent Offenders (AO), Juvenile Offenders (JO), Juvenile Delinquents (JD), and Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) who enter the youth justice system, are remanded to detention, and/or are residentially placed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) is derived from 62% New York State Aid while funding for Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program Raise the Age (STSJP-RTA) is derived from 100% New York State Aid.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County Department of Social Services, through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, has been awarded \$1,028,116 to provide additional Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) services. The Department of Social Services Youth Bureau seeks to enter into contract with community providers to provide services to Youthful Offenders (YO), Adolescent Offenders (AO), Juvenile Offenders (JO), Juvenile Delinquents (JD), and Persons in need of Supervision (PINS) who have entered the youth justice system, are remanded to detention, and/or are residentially placed. These services include Early Intervention, Alternatives to Detention Programming, linkages to Workforce Development, high school equivalency, and case management.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

We would be unable to provide necessary services to at risk youth in our County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services – Youth Services Division will work with the Division of Budget and Management to amend the 2024 Adopted Budget and enter into contract with community providers to provide services to at risk youth.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Re: Acceptance of State Aid for the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) Funding

WHEREAS, a grantmaking fund was created under Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for the purpose of providing annual awards to incentivize local programs to divert youth from detention and residential care; and

WHEREAS, these awards are designed to play a key role in transforming New York State's juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services – Youth Bureau has been awarded \$1,028,116 by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) as Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) funding to offer programming to at risk youth; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Social Services -Youth Bureau issued a Request for Proposal (RFP #2022-017VF) to interested parties; and

WHEREAS, recommendations were approved by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in the annual STSFP and STSJP Raise the Age plans; and

WHEREAS, there is no additional local share necessary for these awards, and there is no fiscal impact based on this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and Deputy County Executive to accept New York State Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) funds for community providers to provide services to at risk youth and the Youth Bureau's 2024 Adopted Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 12530) be amended as follows:

Youth Bureau
Fund 110, Funds Center 12530

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
408061	STSJP - RTA	\$ 423,841
408065	Yth-Supervision	\$ 604,275
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,028,116</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
517802	STSJP – RTA	\$ 386,796
517879	Supervision/Treatment	<u>\$ 641,320</u>

TOTAL

\$1,028,116

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with community providers to service at risk youth in Erie County at an amount not to exceed \$1,083,171; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to the 2024 Adopted Budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Social Services, and Division of Budget and Management.

RFP 2022-017VF	2023-24	2024-25 Allocation
Agency Name	Amount Awarded	Suggested Distribution
STSJP		
Together for Youth (formerly Berkshire Farms)	\$101,715	\$201,715
Youth Advocates	\$72,000	\$172,000
New Directions	\$35,710	\$135,710
Baker Hall dba OLV Human Services	\$86,950	\$186,950
TOTAL	\$296,375	\$696,375
STSJP- RTA		
Together for Youth (formerly Berkshire Farms)	\$101,715	\$101,715
Youth Advocates	\$109,371	109,371
New Directions	\$35,710	\$35,710
Buffalo Urban League	\$56,000	\$56,000
Matt Urban	\$84,000	\$84,000
TOTAL	\$386,796	\$386,796

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-7

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Department of Social Services - Shelter
Improvement Plan

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-7



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2025 JAN 10 25 13:06

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Department of Social Services – Shelter Improvement Plan

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Social Services requests authorization to enter into contracts with The Altamont Program, Inc. and My Place Home for the Homeless Shelter, Inc. to provide funding to make necessary improvements. These improvements are needed to bring their shelter up to code to become Certified. This proposed resolution will use funding that was included in the 2023 Year-End Budget Balancing Amendments and Designations COMM 8E-4 (2024).

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Karen Rybicki at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner of Social Services Karen Rybicki

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services
Re: Department of Social Services – Shelter Improvement Plan
Date: January 10, 2025

SUMMARY

Under the Shelter Improvement Plan the Department of Social Services was awarded \$1,000,000 to provide grants to shelters to make necessary upgrades needed to recertify. The Department of Social Services released a Request for Proposal (RFP 2024-032VF) for organizations to provide the necessary repairs to homeless shelters in order to make them certifiable under the new regulations. Based upon the responses for this RFP we would like to contract with The Altamont Program, Inc. in the amount of \$182,750 and My Place Home for the Homeless Shelter, Inc. in the amount of \$267,090 to complete repairs to make their shelter certifiable.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for this project has been allocated within the 2023 Year-End Budget Balancing Amendments and Designations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

A nationwide shortage of deeply affordable housing drives homelessness. Decades of inadequate investments in housing has caused rent burdens to steadily increase over the years. To reverse this long-term trend and end homelessness, policymakers must make significant investments to ensure that all people have deeply affordable and safe housing.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Erie County Department of Social Services will continue to struggle finding placements for our homeless individuals.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services will enter into contract with The Altamont Program, Inc. and My Place Home for the Homeless Shelter, Inc. to make the necessary upgrades.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: Department of Social Services – Shelter Improvement Plan

WHEREAS, the Erie County Division of Budget presented a plan which was approved by your honorable body with COMM. 8E-4 (2024); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services was awarded funding under this plan in the amount of \$1,000,000 to provide grants to shelters to make necessary upgrades needed to recertify; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) 2024-032VF to seek out Homeless Shelters needing Certification Support; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Department of Social Services desires to contract with The Altamont Program, Inc. in the amount of \$182,750 and My Place Home for the Homeless Shelter, Inc. in the amount of \$267,090 to complete repairs to make their shelters certifiable; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with The Altamont Program, Inc. in the amount of \$182,750 and My Place Home for the Homeless Shelter, Inc. in the amount of \$267,090 to complete repairs to make their shelter certifiable; and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funds to cover the cost of this contract already exist within the Department of Social Services' 2024 General Fund Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 120) Account 516039 – Shelter Improvements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Director of Budget and Management to make any additional budget adjustment which may be required in order to match expense with funding allocation adjustments, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Social Services, and the Division of Budget and Management.



Department of Social Services

Recommendation for RFP 2024-032VF: Homeless Shelter Certification Support

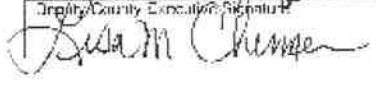
Date: October 23, 2024

The review panel has completed its task of evaluating the proposals for the above-named RFP. The proposals were graded individually by each panel member as well as by Administration as to compliance with the RFP requirements and fiscal compliance/soundness.

Agency	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING by Score	Requested Amount	Recommended Award	RANKING by Vote
THE ALTAMONT PROGRAM, INC.	69.33	1	\$ 182,750.00	\$ 182,750.00	1

It is recommended that the above listed agency receive funding for homeless shelter certification support. Supporting documentation is included in this packet.

The Department of Social Services has complied with all applicable provisions of Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code.

 Program Director Signature	Printed Name Dan Szewc	Date 10/23/24
 Commissioner Signature	Printed Name Karen Rybicki	Date 10/24/24
 Deputy County Executive Signature	Printed Name Lisa Chimera	Date 10/24/24

Once reviewed and approved, please return to Carrie Godfrey, Assistant Social Services Program Director, Rath 887 for processing. Thank you.



Department of Social Services

Recommendation for RFP 2024-032VF: Homeless Shelter Certification Support

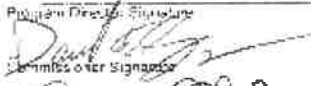
Date: November 14, 2024

The review panel has completed its task of evaluating the proposals for the above-named RFP. The proposals were graded individually by each panel member as well as by Administration as to compliance with the RFP requirements and fiscal compliance/soundness.

Agency	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING by Score	Requested Amount	Recommended Award	RANKING by Vote
MY PLACE HOME FOR THE HOMELESS SHELTER, INC.	69.33	1	\$1,010,960.00	\$ 267,090.00	1

It is recommended that the above listed agency receive funding for homeless shelter certification support. Supporting documentation is included in this packet.

The Department of Social Services has complied with all applicable provisions of Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code

Program Director Signature 	Printed Name Dan Szewc	Date 11/14/2024
Committee Member Signature 	Printed Name Karen Rybicki	Date 11/14/2024
Deputy County Executive Signature 	Printed Name Lisa Chimera	Date 11/19/24

Once reviewed and approved, please return to Carrie Godfrey, Assistant Social Services Program Director, Rath 887 for processing. Thank you



Department of Social Services

RFP 2024-032VF: Homeless Shelter Certification Support

Agency	APP COMPLETENESS	MBWE	Reviewer #1	Reviewer #2	Reviewer #3	Average
EMPOWERMENT TEMPLE	4	No	61	60	71	64.00
MY PLACE HOME FOR THE HOMELESS SHELTER, INC	4	No	64	70	74	69.33
THE ALTAMONT PROGRAM, INC.	4	No	66	56	86	69.33
UNITED CHURCH HOME	4	No	49	81	29	53.00

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-8	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Acceptance of HUD Grant for Lead Hazard Reduction
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	Attachments
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25COMM. 2E-8



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Acceptance of HUD Grant for Lead Hazard Reduction

Dear Honorable Members:

Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is seeking authorization to accept a \$7,750,0000 grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, and authorization to enter into contract with Belmont Housing Resources of WNY, Inc. and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

Acceptance of this grant will allow the Erie County Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) Program to continue which provides efficient, cost-effective lead hazard reduction activities in privately owned homes throughout Erie County, with recruiting efforts focused on the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna, and homes that are occupied and frequented by children under the age of six.

Should your Honorable Body have any questions, please contact the Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/jah

cc: Dr. Gale Burstein, Commissioner of Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Acceptance of HUD Grant for Lead Hazard Reduction
Date: January 10, 2025

SUMMARY

To authorize the County Executive to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to accept this Lead Hazard Reduction grant and to enter into contracts with Belmont Housing Resources of WNY, Inc. and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. These funds would allow ECDOH to continue its Hazard Reduction (LHR) Program which provides efficient, cost-effective lead hazard reduction activities in privately owned homes throughout Erie County, with recruiting efforts focused on the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna, and homes that are occupied and frequented by children under the age of six

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Positive. This grant will provide \$7,750,000 in funding which will be directly invested into the community by improving housing stock in Erie County.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To enable the Department to provide efficient, cost-effective lead hazard reduction activities in privately owned homes throughout Erie County, with recruiting efforts focused in the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna, which are occupied and frequented by children under the age of six.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes awards Lead Hazard Reduction grants to urban municipalities that show the greatest need for lead poisoning prevention and hazard control and reduction activities. HUD requires active community partnerships and matching funds/commitments from applicants, as well as a dedicated Program Manager to coordinate the program activities.

The Erie County Department of Health, Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.; the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; and the New York State funded Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs have joined together in partnership for the purposes of providing services under this grant.

The purpose of the Erie County Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) Program is to provide efficient, cost-effective lead hazard reduction activities in privately owned homes throughout Erie County, with recruiting efforts focused in the Cities of Buffalo and

Lackawanna, which are occupied and frequented by children under the age of six. This will be accomplished through home paint inspections and lead risk assessments by Erie County staff, and provision of services for lead hazard reduction activities, healthy housing interventions and minor rehab work utilizing these grant funds and matching contributions by the County and community partners.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department will not be able to implement this program and children will not be protected from lead hazards.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Erie County Department of Health will work with the County Attorney's Office and Division of Budget and Management to execute the resolution.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Re: Acceptance of HUD Grant for Lead Hazard Reduction

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health has received a grant award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes in the amount of \$7,750,000; and

WHEREAS, this grant award allows for the continuing implementation of the Erie County Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development requires partnerships and mandatory matching contributions as part of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health, Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc., the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, and the New York State Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs have joined together in partnership for the purposes of providing services under this grant; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Erie County Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) Program is to provide efficient, cost-effective lead hazard reduction activities in privately owned homes throughout Erie County, with recruiting efforts focused in the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna, which are occupied and frequented by children under the age of six; and

WHEREAS, this will be accomplished through home paint inspections and lead risk assessments by Erie County staff, and provision of services for lead hazard reduction activities, healthy housing interventions and minor rehab work utilizing these grant funds and matching contributions by the County and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to subcontract with Belmont Housing Resources of WNY, Inc. for purposes of preparing work and bid specifications in homes to receive lead hazard reduction work and healthy housing interventions, awarding competitive bids for hazard reduction and healthy housing work, including labor and supply costs, to qualified contractors, and monitoring work progress and quality of contractors who are successful in receiving bids, and coordinating and account for the matching contributions to the proposed work at participating homes; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to subcontract with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo to provide expertise in facilitating community awareness and involvement in the provision of healthy housing interventions and minor rehab work; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to accept \$7,750,000 in funding to be made available as a multi-year grant within the Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health (Fund 281, Funds Center 1273038) as follows:

Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
Lead Hazard Reduction Program
127LHR2528
01/01/2025 – 12/31/2028

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
414000	Federal Aid	<u>\$7,750,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$7,750,000</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
500000	Full Time - Salaries	374,917
501000	Overtime	20,000
502000	Fringe Benefits	201,803
505000	Office Supplies	14,400
505200	Clothing Supplies	2,400
505400	Food & Kitchen Supplies	1,000
505800	Medical & Health Supplies	4,100
510000	Local Mileage Reimbursement	13,056
510100	Out of Area Travel	40,000
510200	Training and Education	1,920
516020	Professional Services, Contracts & Fees	69,160
517527	Belmont House Res WNY	6,970,122
530000	Other Expenses	15,122
561410	Lab & Technical Equipment	7,000
561420	Office Furniture & Fixtures	1,200
980000	ID DISS Services	<u>\$ 13,800</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$7,750,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that where existing personnel are funded out of HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grants as additional HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes funding becomes available, those existing positions can shift over to future HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grant years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with Belmont Housing of WNY and Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, waiving the procedures in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to adjust grant appropriations and revenues including those required to comply with the grantor funding changes provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels or county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extension that may be permitted by the grantor.

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Division of Budget and Management to make any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Law, Department of Health, and Division of Budget and Management.

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-9	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs
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25COMM. 2E-9	Attachments
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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning regarding the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the federal Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs. The resolution authorizes submittal of the plan to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as execution of all necessary agreements with HUD, local governments, property owners, non-profit and for-profit organizations necessary to implement the programs.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Daniel R. Castle. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/jw
Enclosure

cc: Daniel R. Castle
Paul J. D'Orlando

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions and HOME Investment Partnership Programs
Date: January 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The action authorizes the County Executive to submit the resolution as supplementary material to the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs. The latter is scheduled for submittal to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or about February 14, 2025 and pertains to the following programs and approximate amounts: \$3,007,262 in the Erie County Consortium Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funds; \$425,000 in Town of Hamburg Community Development Program funds; \$902,943 in HOME Investment Partnership Program funds; and \$240,655 in Emergency Solutions Program funds.

The resolution also authorizes the County Executive to execute any and all agreements with HUD, local governments, property owners, non-profit and for-profit organizations necessary to implement the programs. The County Executive will undertake the above action on behalf of the Erie County Community Development Consortium and Town of Hamburg/Erie County HOME Consortium.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no County funds involved, thus there is no fiscal impact to Erie County.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The abovementioned programs benefit the communities illustrated in Attachment A of this memorandum. Funds are targeted toward low-and moderate-income people and aid in furthering a variety of housing, economic development, planning and community development activities. Attachment B lists the budget and projects for the various Program areas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is an annual program through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. It represents the 48th year of funding for the Erie County Consortium.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Erie County Community Development Consortium and Town of Hamburg/Erie County HOME Consortium would be unable to obtain approximately \$4,500,000 in federal funds.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The resolution will be forwarded to HUD for inclusion in the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs and HUD will undergo their review process.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs

WHEREAS, Erie County, through the Department of Environment and Planning, serves as the administrative agent for the Erie County/Town of West Seneca Community Development Consortium and Erie County/Town of West Seneca/Town of Hamburg HOME Investment Partnership Consortium; and

WHEREAS, a major responsibility of the Department as the administrative agent, is the preparation of the annual program application materials, and submittal of same to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Community Development Block Grant Consortium and HOME Consortium approved the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan at their session held on January 23, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive, on behalf of the Erie County Community Development Consortium and Town of Hamburg/Erie County HOME Consortium, to submit this resolution to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as supportive material to the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions, and HOME Investment Partnership Programs having estimated dollar amounts as indicated:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Erie County Consortium Community Development Program: | \$3,007,262 |
| 2. Emergency Solutions Program: | \$ 240,655 |
| 3. HOME Investment Partnership Program: | \$ 902,943 |
| 4. Town of Hamburg Community Development Program: | \$ 425,000 |

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive on behalf of the Erie County Community Development Consortium and Town of Hamburg/Erie County HOME Consortium to submit and execute any and all applications and agreements with HUD, local governments, property owners receiving housing assistance, non-profit, and for-profit agencies, which are necessary to implement the above programs with the exception that any proposed agreement that transfers all or a portion of the administrative functions of the program from Erie County to a sub-recipient or contractual agency shall require approval from the Erie County Community Development Consortium and the Erie County Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning to execute any and all CDBG or HOME Agreements with property owners participating in County housing programs assisted with federal CDBG or HOME Investment Partnership funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning to execute any and all discharges of Erie County Note and Mortgages and/or Lien documents associated with any and all Erie County Housing Programs funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant and/or HOME Investment Partnership Programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Office of the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Environment and Planning, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Department of Law.

ATTACHMENT A
HOME INVESTMENT CONSORTIUM MAP

ATTACHMENT B

2025 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET AND PROJECTS ERIE COUNTY CDBG/HOME CONSORTIUM

ATTACHMENT B

2025 YEAR - CONSOLIDATED BUDGET SORTED												
Project #	PROGRAMMED PROJECTS	HOME	CDBG-Admin	Emergency Solutions	Community Project	Economic Development	Project Support	Housing-CDBG	Future/ Program Income	Prior Year Funds	Other Funds	Total
1	CDBG25- Program Administration		\$ 596,599.00									\$ 596,599.00
2	HOM25- Program Administration	\$ 90,294.00										\$ 90,294.00
3	ESG25 - Program Administration			\$ 18,049.00								\$ 18,049.00
4	H25- Fair Housing- Housing Opportunities Made Equal							\$ 42,720.00				\$ 42,720.00
5	H25 - Housing Support Services - Housing Counseling - Belmont Shelter Corp.							\$ 26,716.00				\$ 26,716.00
6	H25- CDBG Consortium Owner Occupied Housing Rehab Program							\$300,657.00	\$305,000.00			\$ 605,657.00
7	H25 - HOME Consortium Owner Occupied Housing Rehab Program	\$466,531.00							\$200,000.00			\$ 666,531.00
8	H25 - CDBG West Seneca Housing Rehab Loan Program							\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00			\$ 50,000.00
9	H25 - HOME West Seneca Homeowner Rehab	\$ 98,939.00							\$ 15,000.00			\$ 113,939.00
10	HOM25 - Hamburg - Homeowner Rehab	\$111,738.00										\$ 111,738.00
11	H25 - Emergency Rehab Program							\$175,000.00				\$ 175,000.00
12	H25 - Rental Rehab Program							\$121,265.00				\$ 121,265.00
13	H25 - Mobile Home Repair Program							\$ 86,000.00				\$ 86,000.00
14	H25- Lead Abatement Program							\$100,000.00				\$ 100,000.00
15	HOM25 - CHDO Projects	\$135,441.00										\$ 135,441.00
16	ED25- Commercial Center Improvement Program- (CCIP)					\$ 75,000.00					\$ 75,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
17	ED25- ECIDA- Micro-Loan Program Income								\$112,000.00			\$ 112,000.00
18	CP25 - C. Lackawanna - Kirby Avenue Reconstruction Project - Phase 2				\$150,000.00		\$ 5,000.00				\$ 542,827.00	\$ 697,827.00
19	CP25 - T. Sardinia - Town Hall ADA Improvements				\$ 63,050.00		\$ 3,000.00				\$ 63,050.00	\$ 129,100.00
20	CP25 - V. Angela - High and York Streets Sidewalk Replacement				\$150,000.00		\$ 5,000.00				\$ 25,000.00	\$ 180,000.00

ATTACHMENT B

21	CP25 - T. Orchard Park - Senior Center Improvements					\$ 30,560.00			\$ 2,500.00				\$ 10,186.00	\$ 43,246.00
22	CP25- Rural Transit Service					\$ 283,000.00			\$ 10,000.00				\$ 953,380.00	\$ 1,246,380.00
23	CP25- T. Grand Island- Senior Center Improvements					\$ 98,360.00			\$ 3,000.00				\$ 47,295.00	\$ 148,655.00
24	CP25- T. Lancaster - Senior Center Improvements					\$ 150,000.00			\$ 5,000.00				\$ 8,261.00	\$ 163,261.00
25	CP25 - T. Eden - Schwartz Field- ADA Improvements					\$ 50,635.00			\$ 3,000.00				\$ 2,665.00	\$ 56,300.00
26	CP25 - C. Tonawanda - Sidewalk Replacement					\$ 150,000.00			\$ 5,000.00				\$ 51,050.00	\$ 206,050.00
27	CP25 - T. West Seneca- Fireman's Park Playground Improvements					\$ 150,000.00			\$ 5,000.00				\$ 159,544.00	\$ 314,544.00
28	CP25- T. Aurora- Senior Center Improvements					\$ 100,700.00			\$ 4,000.00				\$ 5,300.00	\$ 110,000.00
29	CP25- T. North Collins- Senior Center- Generator Installation					\$ 24,500.00			\$ 2,000.00				\$ -	\$ 26,500.00
3	ESG25- Rapid Re-Housing Rental Assistance					\$ 106,303.00							\$ 55,085.00	\$ 161,388.00
3	ESG25- Homeless Prevention Rental Assistance					\$ 10,000.00							\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
3	ESG25- HMIS Data Collection					\$ 240,655.00			\$ 75,000.00				\$ 2,063,778.00	\$ 6,866,598.00
	TOTAL					\$ 902,943.00			\$ 57,500.00				\$ 652,000.00	
						\$ 3,007,263.00								

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-10

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5 - Construction
Inspection Term Contract Agreement

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-10



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2025 JAN 10 '25 PM 3:07

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Erie County Sewer District Nos. 1, 4, & 5
Construction Inspection Term Contract Agreement
Greenman-Pederson, Inc.
Work Order: GPI-2**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum from the Department of Environment and Planning, Division of Sewerage Management, for the issuance of a work order as authorized by the Erie County Legislature, related to 3-year Term Agreements.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Joseph Fiegl, P.E. in the Division of Sewerage Management. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP:bp
Enclosure

cc: J. Fiegl – Deputy Commissioner, Division of Sewerage Management

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Sewer District Nos. 1, 4, & 5
Construction Inspection Term Contract Agreement
Greenman-Pederson, Inc. Work Order: GPI-2
Date: January 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The Erie County Legislature is requested to receive and file this communication pertaining to the Department of Environment and Planning's issuance of a work order with Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI) for Erie County Sewer District (ECSD) Nos. 1, 4, & 5 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. The cost of the engineering inspection work related to this communication will be paid from the Sewer Fund Operating Budget; Sewer Professional Services Accounts (516020) of Erie County Sewer District Nos. 1, 4, & 5.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Division of Sewerage Management has issued work order GPI-2 to GPI to provide resident engineering services. GPI will provide inspection for construction and subdivision projects in Erie County Sewer District Nos. 1, 4, & 5.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Your Honorable Body passed Legislative Comm. 19E-17 (2022) authorizing a 3-year Term Agreement with GPI for resident engineering / construction inspection services. At the time of the contract award, the Division of Sewerage Management committed to notifying the Honorable Legislature of each work order issued.

The Term Agreement was approved to provide the Division of Sewerage Management with assistance to complete resident engineering throughout the ECSDs. Accordingly, the Department has approved work order GPI-2 in the amount of \$50,000.00 to provide inspection for various construction and subdivision projects in ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

This is a receive and file item.

STEPS TO FOLLOW APPROVAL

This is a receive and file item.

**ERIE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NOS. 1, 4, & 5
WORK ORDER NO. GPI-2**

ENGINEER: Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI)

CONTRACT DATE: December 15, 2022

1. Title of Proposal:

Provide resident engineering services for various construction and subdivision sewer installation projects in ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5.

2. Company/Address/Principal In-Charge:

Kenneth Zollitsch, LEED AP
GPI, Inc.
Suite 100
4950 Genesee Street
Buffalo, NY 14225

3. Effective Dates of Proposal:

November 14, 2024

4. Brief Description of Work for Which Proposal is Submitted:

The Engineer will provide construction inspection for various construction and subdivision projects in ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5.

5. Engineering Cost:

\$50,000.00

6. Source of Funds:

7. ECSD Nos. 1, 4, & 5 Professional Services Account 516020

8. Project No: GPI-2

9. Attachments: None

10. File: 0.3.2. GPI (23-25/26) Insp

DATE: January 3, 2025

Accepted By: _____

Prepared By: _____

Matt A. Salah, P.E.

Authorized By: _____

Joseph Fiegl, P.E., BCEE
Deputy Commissioner

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-11

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

District Attorney Lobby Renovation

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-11



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: District Attorney Lobby Renovation

Dear Honorable Members:

This resolution is requesting authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the District Attorney Lobby Renovation project. General Construction bids were received by the Department of Public Works on November 14, 2024.

Various security improvements are undertaken in this project for the protection of District Attorney staff to ensure that employees are protected in the event of a security breach. This project will create a secured vestibule for visitors of the District Attorney's office to remain while they wait for their business in the office to conclude. A new door next to the reception desk will allow for a controlled flow of invited guests into the main office while also maintaining a barrier between the public and the current open office layout.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner William E. Geary, Jr. at the Department of Public Works. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Poloncarz" clearly distinguishable.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/maa
Enclosure

cc: William E. Geary, Jr., Commissioner, Department of Public Works

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Public Works
Re: District Attorney Lobby Renovation
Date: January 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the District Attorney Lobby Renovation Project, located at the Erie County Courthouse (25 Delaware).

The existing entrance layout does not allow for controlled access to the District Attorney's office during times of peak traffic. There is one set of double doors between the elevator lobby and the District Attorney's office. To enter these doors, either badge access is required or communication with the reception desk via a video/audio intercom. If one person is cleared by the receptionist, the double doors are momentarily unlocked and a non-authorized person in the elevator lobby could follow through the open double doors. Once a non-authorized person enters the doorway, they have the potential for physical and visual access to sensitive information in the open office.

This project would build an enclosed waiting room in the existing reception area. A new single door would be located adjacent to the reception desk and would have both a card reader and allow the receptionist a momentary unlock button to grant access. This new door would allow a smaller opening to control the flow of people allowed access to the office area. This project would also build a small investigator's room adjacent to the waiting room. The purpose of this is to allow the investigator a private place to conduct interviews and provide a layer of security for the receptionist with a window to the waiting room. The glass for the investigator's room window would have level 3 clear ballistic glass with 1-way film and the receptionist's transaction window would be made of level 3 clear ballistic glazing. A panic button at the receptionist's desk would immediately close and lock the double doors.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for the project are currently available from Fund Center 11400 Fund 110 as follows:

559000 County Share – Grants	\$ 183,000.00
561410 Lab & Technical Equipment	\$ 16,000.00
<u>561420 Office Eqmt Furniture & Fixtures</u>	<u>\$ 401,000.00</u>
Total not to exceed	\$ 600,000.00

These funds are to be moved to 486000 Interfund Revenue Subsidy, and then into a newly created A.24XXX – District Attorney Lobby Renovations or payment processing.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

In recent years, security concerns in government buildings have been on the rise. Due to the District Attorney's office being a publicly accessible space, protestors have used the area as an assembly space. In order to allow these protests to continue safely, a secured vestibule was the agreed upon suggestion. Providing a barrier between the public and the sensitive information and work being processed in the open office. Building a secure vestibule will alleviate these concerns and allow for peace of mind for the workers on the 6th floor.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The only existing entry into the 6th floor offices is a glass double door with bolts at the bottom of the door. These are standard glass windows with no ballistic rating. This doorway is utilized by both regular workers and the visiting public. Workers use their scan card to unlock the door and gain entry. Visitors communicate with the receptionist through the intercom, who will then grant access if required. The security issue arises upon various busy times throughout the day where there are multiple visitors trying to gain access to the office for whatever business they may have. When one person is granted access, the door is unlocked for anyone in the elevator lobby to walk in behind them.

This project would enclose the reception area to limit any interaction or disturbance to the office workers and allow visitors to talk with the receptionist, hand over any papers or documentation, without gaining access to the entire office. Instead, the door directly to the open office space would be a single door right next to the receptionist's desk, allowing the receptionist a direct view of anyone entering. An investigator's office will also be added as an additional level of security, with a window looking into the waiting room.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If this project is not approved, the security of the District Attorney's office will be at risk. The current office layout has insufficient security precautions between the workers on the 6th floor and the public for the modern day.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon Legislative approval, the County Executive will enter into a contract with the lowest responsible bidder.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed legislation has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office and is related to an authorized capital project for which there are sufficient appropriations for the action proposed.

to be authorized via this resolution

T. C. Callan 12/9/24
Timothy C. Callan
Deputy Comptroller
Comptroller's Office

A.24XXX District Attorney Lobby Renovation

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

RE: District Attorney Lobby Renovation

WHEREAS, In coordination with the District Attorney's (DA) Office,

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the design consultant, a layout has been approved by the District Attorney's team and the team is looking to start construction before the fall to minimize impact and delays during high traffic times for the District Attorney's office; and

WHEREAS, without this proposed buildout, the existing open office layout faces the potential for sensitive information to be accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, scope of work includes enhanced security measures, secure waiting areas, ballistic glazing, as well as private interview rooms; and

WHEREAS, the safety of the employees of the District Attorney's office is the top priority in regards to upgrades and renovations; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie received General Construction bids for the Project on November 14, 2024 in accordance with General Municipal Law 103; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder for General Construction Work is Resetarits Construction Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and C&S Companies are recommending the award of the contract to the lowest responsible bidder; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the District Attorney's Office's 2024 General Fund Budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 11400) be modified to facilitate the transfer of \$600,000 in funding into a new capital project to be managed by the Division of Buildings & Grounds as follows:

District Attorney's Office
Fund 110, Funds Center 11400

APPROPRIATIONS	CHANGE
559000 County Share - Grants	(\$183,000)
561410 Lab & Technical Equipment	(\$ 16,000)
561420 Office Eqmt, Furniture & Fixtures	(\$401,000)
570050 Interfund Transfer Capital	<u>\$600,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 0</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given create Capital Project A.24XXX – District Attorney Lobby Renovation within the Division of Buildings and Grounds (Fund 410, Funds Center 12220) as follows:

Project A.24XXX
District Attorney Lobby Renovation
Division of Buildings and Grounds
Fund 410, Funds Center 12220

REVENUES

486000 Interfund Revenue Subsidy

BUDGET

\$600,000

\$600,000

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Project Expense

\$600,000

TOTAL

\$600,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the District Attorney Lobby Renovation Project for an amount not to exceed as follows:

General Construction Work

Resetarits Construction Corporation. Base Bid:

\$ 539,000.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the sum of \$61,000 to be allocated to a Construction Contingency Fund with authorization for the County Executive and/or Deputy County Executive to approve change orders in an amount not to exceed the Contingency Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, that change order reductions will result in these funds being returned to the Construction Contingency Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, that sufficient funding for this project is available in the newly created Division of Buildings & Grounds Capital Project (Fund 410, Funds Center 12220) A.24XXX – District Attorney Lobby Renovation Project in the amount, not to exceed, \$600,000.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that two certified copies each of this resolution be sent to the Department of Public Works, Commissioner's Office, and one copy each to the County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Division of Budget and Management.

TO: TIMOTHY C. CALLAN, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING RULE 55

CONTRACT APPROVAL CHECKLIST
CONFIRMATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT

COMPLETE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5

1. CONTRACTOR'S NAME Lowest Responsible Bidder
2. AMOUNT OF CONTRACT Not to exceed \$600,000.00
3. PROJECT NUMBER A.24XXX
4. PROJECT TITLE District Attorney Lobby Renovation
5. DEPARTMENT CONTACT Funding questions: Kristofer Straus, PE at x7294
Letter pickup: Christy Weber at x8301

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

COMPLETE ITEMS 6 AND 7

6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS \$ see attached Budget Circumvention Report
7. PERFORMED BY Timothy C. Callan

Date sent to Comptroller's Office: 12/5/24

[55 compt_10]



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DIVISION OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
Unofficial Bid Results**

Project Name: District Attorney Lobby Renovation

Bid Date: 11/14/2024

Project No.: 2024-814-01, General Construction

Bid Time, Local: 10:00 A.M.

Bidder	Base Bid	Alt Bid G-01
Resetarits Construction Corporation	\$539,000.00	-\$4,000.00
Rodriguez Construction Group, Inc.	\$548,000.00	-\$15,800.00

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-12

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Re-Appointment to the Youth Services Board

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-12



EC LEG JAN 10 '25 PM3:07

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St. – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE YOUTH SERVICES BOARD

Be advised that, pursuant to Article 12, I hereby appoint the following individuals to the Youth Services Advisory Board. Their terms shall expire on December 31, 2027.

Appointees:

Lakisha Collins
76 Blake Street
Buffalo, NY 14211

Gabrielle Rose Kostrzewski
128 Royal Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207

Wavelle Parchment
3957 Park Ave
Hamburg, NY 14075

Tyler Skretney
99 Ceil Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (716) 858-8500.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

cc: Karen Rybicki, Commissioner of Social Services
Appointees

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-13

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Appointments to the Erie County Arts &
Cultural Advisory Board

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-13



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EC LEG JAN 10 '25 PM 3:01

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Appointments to Erie County Arts & Cultural Advisory Board

Dear Honorable Members:

Please be advised that, pursuant to Article 22, Section 2205 of the Erie County Charter, I hereby appoint the following individuals to the Erie County Arts & Cultural Advisory Board. Their terms shall expire **December 31, 2027**.

Susan Kirkpatrick
469 Berryman Drive
Amherst, NY 14226

Michael deFreitas
205 Crescent Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

Jennifer Colwell
435 McKinley Avenue
Williamsville, NY 14221

William Pierce
576 S Ogden Street
Buffalo, NY 14206

Lila Balali
646 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Carolyn Morris-Hunt
58 E Girard Boulevard
Kenmore, NY 14217

Davida Tolbert
15 Rowland Avenue
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments please feel free to contact my office at (716) 858-8500.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nn

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-14

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Appointments to the Commission on the
Status of Women

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-14



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4 Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Appointments to the Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the Erie County Charter Section 1705, I, Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive do hereby submit for your confirmation the following individuals to be appointed to the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women for a term ending **December 31, 2026**.

Appointees

Kelly Dumas
251 Pine Ridge Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
Re-Appointment

Gaia Bistulfi Amman
25 Irving Place
Buffalo, NY 14201
New Appointment

Kelly Frothingham
21 Grosvenor Road
Buffalo, NY 14223
New Appointment

Maria M. Cruz
4538 Windsor Terrace
Hamburg, NY 14075
New Appointment

Stephanie R. Peete
225 Louisiana Street
Buffalo, NY 14204
New Appointment

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nn
cc: Appointees

STEPHANIE R. PEETE, MPA

(716) 860-6081 - stephanie.peete@gmail.com - [linkedin.com/in/stephaniepeete](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephaniepeete)

PROFILE: Innovative nonprofit leader with over 10 years of experience in health & human services, education, and workforce development. Highly skilled in relationship building and stewarding, racial equity coaching, and project management.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- **ATHENA Young Professional Finalist**, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, March 2023
 - **IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Award Recipient**, Buffalo Business First, January 2022
 - **Liberty Bell Award**, Bar Association of Erie County, April 2021
 - Created Say Yes Buffalo Employer Think Tank Series which provided racial equity and youth engagement education for local employers; over 400 leaders from 80 unique organizations have attended since 2021
-

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Say Yes Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Director of Workforce Development

Feb. 2023 – present

- Convene, facilitate, oversee and steward the success of all workforce development initiatives, including but not limited to business recruitment, student recruitment, partnership development and stewardship, higher education collaboration and marketing and promotion
- Manage grant funding deliverables and reporting requirements
- Develop annual program goals, objectives and benchmarks for success

Business Partnerships Manager

Sept. 2021 – Jan. 2023

- Assisted in development of Career Wise Greater Buffalo Youth Apprenticeship pilot and support annual renewals process for key business partners
- Supervised Apprenticeship Success Coach and developed robust apprenticeship training opportunities for employer partners that are rooted in racial equity
- Managed Internship & Career Pathways Program Supervisor and related employer partnerships

Internship and Career Pathways Program Supervisor

Jan. 2018 – Sept. 2021

- Increased capacity of program by more than 40% over three years
- Collaborated with over 60 local employers to build diverse and viable talent pipelines
- Project managed the Buffalo Youth Employment Coalition (YEC), an initiative under the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo with over 70 members from 36 organizations
- Founding member of Say Yes Buffalo's Racial Equity & Inclusion Committee

Family Support Specialist

Dec. 2014 – Dec. 2017

- Coordinated on-site collaboration, facilitation, and enrollment of service providers
- Maintained 100% acceptance rate for self-generated preventive service referrals
- Founding member of Say Yes Buffalo Self-Care Committee, Co-Chair of Service Project Sub-Committee
- Assisted with development of first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Buffalo Public Schools

Evergreen Association, Buffalo, NY

Outreach & Engagement Specialist

June 2014 – Dec. 2017

- Linked residents in Erie and Niagara counties with care coordination services
- Tracked outreach data for reporting purposes

Buffalo Urban League, Inc., Buffalo, NY

Case Planner

Aug. 2009 – June 2011

- Provided case management services to families involved in foster care system
- Supervised family visitation and planned for permanency for children who became free for adoption

Restoration Society, Buffalo, NY

Employment Specialist

June 2008 – Aug. 2009

- Assisted individuals with mental health diagnoses obtain and maintain competitive
- Facilitated vocational classes and support groups

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

TechBuffalo, Board of Directors	June 2023 – present
Institute of Nonprofit Practice, Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership & Management	May 2023
Leadership Buffalo, Class Experience	Class of 2021
John R. Oishei Foundation, Mobilize Oversight Committee Member	April 2021 – present
Women United (United Way of Buffalo & Erie County), Advisory Board Member	April 2021 – present
Race Matters Institute, Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA) Coaching Certification	Sep. 2021
Women of Color Annual Summit, Co-Chairperson	Nov. 2019 – present
Theatre of Youth, Buffalo New York, Board Member and DEI Committee Chair	Jan. 2019 – present
Next Generation United (United Way of Buffalo & Erie County), Advisory Board	June 2019 – May 2021
Buffalo Niagara Partnership: BN360, Advisory Board Member	Feb. 2019 – Dec. 2020
Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Emerging Philanthropist of Color Member	June 2018 – Jan. 2021
Buffalo Niagara Partnership: Diversity & Inclusion Council, Councilmember	Jan. 2018 – Sep. 2019
Say Yes Buffalo Leadership 101 Program,	2018
Say Yes Buffalo, Scholar Mentor	March 2017 – present

PRESENTATIONS & TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Eleversity, Panelist, Reality of Race Relations in the Workplace	March 2022
BIPOC Mental Health Project, Panelist, Mental Health in the Black Community	Feb. 2022
Peaceprints of WNY, Facilitator, Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit	Feb. 2022
Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Panelist, Mentorship Matters & ERGs	June 2021
Action for a Better Community, Workshop Presenter, Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Increasing Engagement and Involvement for Youth, Young Adults, and Families	Jan. 2021
Canisius College, Panelist, Where Do We Go From Here? A Community Conversation About MLK's Vision for America	Dec. 2020
Eleversity, Panelist, Best Practices in DEI Recruitment & Hiring Strategies	Oct. 2020
Woman Up, Roundtable Facilitator, Overcoming Negative Self-Talk and Imposter Syndrome	Jan. 2020
Canisius College, Adjunct Instructor, HSV 212: Social & Cultural Diversity	Jan. 2020 – May 2020

EDUCATION

SUNY University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY	
Graduate Certificate in Project Management & Creative Problem Solving	Nov. 2021
Hilbert College, Hamburg, NY	
Master of Public Administration	May 2017
Canisius College, Buffalo, NY	
Bachelor of Arts	May 2008
Dual Major: Urban Studies and Sociology Certificate: Women's Studies	
Honors: DiGamma Honor Society	
Study Abroad: London Metropolitan University, London, UK	

MARIA M. CRUZ

|C: (716) 364-3883|Mariacruz1126@gmail.com

Professional Summary

Experienced, dynamic, strategic and committed leader within the community pushing for equity in all aspects. History of successfully creating engaging spaces of inclusivity and belonging. Extremely confident and passionate in coaching, developing others, building teams, engaging the community and using talent while creating a positive culture. Engaging communicator able to leverage innovation, use financial data, and build relationships with diverse stakeholders. Excellent written skills, auditing ability and experience preparing and submitting grant applications, presentations, evaluation and progress reports. Experience developing and leading culture and diversity programs with a equity and engagement mindset.

Education /Honors

DEI /Engagement Certified by Cornell University	January 2024
Business First 40 under 40 recipient	2023
The Karen Lee Spaulding Oishei 2023 Fellowship for Leaders of Color	2023
Bachelor of Science in Conflict Studies & Dispute Resolution	December 2016
<i>Hilbert College, Hamburg, NY</i>	
GPA: 3.80/4.0	
Academic Honors List	Fall 2014-Spring 2016
Tau Sigma National Honor Society	Spring 2016

Community Involvement

Beau Fleuve Community Board of Trustees	2024-Present
The Summit Center Board Member	2024 Present
Erie County Health Equity Board Vice Chair	2023-Present
Albright Knox Gallery (AKG) Council Co-Chair	2022-Present
Latina Mentoring Initiative Committee Member and Mentor	2021-Present
Hispanic Women's League Liga de Mujeres Hispanas President	2021-Present
Corresponding Secretary	2019-2021
Empowerment and Fundraising Committee Co-Chair	2019-2023
Lean in (ERG): Fostering Women's Leadership & Workplace Inclusion Chair	2022-2024
Dear Tayrin: Sexual Abuse Awareness Advisory Board Member	2015-Present

Professional Experience

Evergreen Health, Buffalo, NY	
Case Manager	October 2015-September 2018
Director of Treatment and Prevention Adherence	September 2018-November 2023
Senior Director of Equity and Inclusion	November 2023-September 2024
AVP of Employee Engagement	September 2024-Present
- Responsible for helping to drive the overall objectives of the organization through transformative, high-impact people strategy. This key role drives the vision and strategy for inclusive organizational culture, social good initiatives and employee relations and effectiveness in alignment with the organization's priorities. - Coaches and advocates the HR Team and infuses diverse, equitable, and inclusive practices within Evergreen's policies, programs and systems.	

- Support and help develop systems on people operations have the ability to foster and strengthen cultures rooted in diversity, equity, inclusion, collaboration and compassion.
- Leads the vision and strategy to advance Evergreen's diversity, equity, inclusion, engagement and corporate social responsibility strategies while leading the Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Council.
- Identify gaps in care or programming and facilitate quality improvements, workflows, and policy changes within the organization.
- Support and train program directors with grant writing and reporting to for local, state and federally funded programs.
- Train and motivate staff to complete quarterly assessments, treatment ready evaluations and service plans.
- Promote office culture to foster teamwork and high performance by all.
- Engage with community organizations to build collaborative networks.
- Demonstrate initiative and a determined approach to problem solving and strategic thinking skills.
- Review monthly database reports to monitor data entry and performance measures.
- Continuously review and update policies and procedures.
- Ensure strong operational and financial infrastructure, with extensive awareness of grant management in collaboration with the administrative team.
- Submit monthly reports that provide detailed information on how we measure progress, implementation plans, successes, failures, work plan review with goals, etc.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with people from diverse personal and professional background

M&T Bank, Buffalo NY
Executive Assistant

July 2013-October 2015

Language Skills

- Fluent in Spanish (Written and Verbal)

KELLY M. FROTHINGHAM, Ph.D.

21 Grosvenor Rd. Buffalo, NY 14223 | (716) 913-7336 | kelly.frothingham@gmail.com

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

As both a faculty member and university administrator, my experience ranges from performing data analysis and making data-informed decisions to leading a diverse faculty to transform student lives through rigorous scholarship, artistic expression, and engaged global citizenship. Current duties include leadership; planning and management; faculty support; budgetary oversight; advocacy; and development.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

October 2023 to present	Interim Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State
June 2021 to September 2023	Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State
September 2019 to May 2021	Associate Dean, School of Natural and Social Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State
January 2019 to August 2019	Interim Associate Dean, School of Natural and Social Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State
September 2009 to August 2018	Chair, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Buffalo State
September 2015 to present	Professor, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Buffalo State
September 2006 to August 2015	Associate Professor, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Buffalo State
August 2000 to August 2006	Assistant Professor, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Buffalo State

OTHER APPOINTMENTS and PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Member of the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors: May 2012-December 2023 (served as the Vice Chairperson of the Board, January 2018-December 2023)
- Member of several technical advisory committees (TACs) at Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (formerly Riverkeeper): 2000-2020
- Instructor, River Academy with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (Topics: Stream Assessment and Monitoring): March 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- Instructor, Engineering for Stream Ecosystem Restoration University at Buffalo Summer Workshop Series (Topics: River Processes, Watershed Restoration, Stream Assessment): June 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015
- Elected officer of the Middle States Division of the American Association of Geographers: Past President January 2014-December 2015; President January 2013-December 2013 (duties included planning and running the division annual meeting at Buffalo State); Vice President January 2012-December 2012; Secretary January 2011-December 2011

- Co-editor of the Middle States Geographer, journal of the Middle States Division American Association of Geographers: September 2000-June 2011
- Member of the Buffalo State Child Care Center Board of Directors: August 2004-August 2011 (including member of Curriculum and Fundraising committees at various times and Standards and Program committee chair during National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) reaccreditation, September 2009-August 2011)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Interim Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State October 2023-present

In this position I serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of the School of Arts and Sciences and I report directly to the provost of the university. Currently, the school includes 19 departments, a few interdisciplinary units offering curriculum (e.g., Women and Gender Studies, Africana Studies), the Great Lakes Center, the Performing Arts Center, and the Czurles-Nelson Gallery. As dean I promote strong working relationships, collegiality, consensus building, and a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service within an inclusive learning environment. Highlights of my tenure as interim dean include:

- Engaging faculty, staff, and students in academic optimization, which includes reviewing our curricular offering to ensure we are meeting student and workforce demands.
- Overseeing state, Research Foundation, and Buffalo State Foundation accounts and funds and ensuring that department chairs have accurate financial information to improve spending outcomes and efficiencies.
- Supporting faculty through the hiring, renewal, tenure, and promotion, and addressing personnel issues.
- Supporting faculty research and creative activity by increasing funding support for faculty travel to conferences and meetings.
- Developing the school by fundraising and cultivating donors through outreach efforts, hosting alumni on campus, and collaborating with Institutional Development.

Associate Dean for Curriculum and Assessment, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State June 2021-September 2023

Beginning in June 2021, the School of Natural and Social Sciences and the School of Arts and Humanities merged to become the School of Arts and Sciences. In the new school, my primary responsibilities shifted to focusing on curriculum and assessment, as well as performing enrollment management data analysis and reviewing department course schedules each semester to coordinate course offerings and student enrollment with department chairs. Highlights of my tenure as associate dean include:

- Oversaw all curriculum activities for more than 70 registered programs, over 50 minors, and four microcredentials, three of which were approved during my tenure as associate dean.
- Created a new department chair guidance handbook for the School of Arts and Sciences chairs, which resulted in being asked by the provost to work with the director of the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to develop and run a year-long university wide chairs support group orientation.
- Developed guidance and scheduling resources for School of Arts and Sciences department chairs to use in master schedule development. The scheduling resources were expanded to university wide Tableau dashboards.

- Provided both informal and formal (through the College Senate Academic Plan Committee) feedback on a new general education program that began in Fall 2023. The new general education program was designed in response to updated SUNY requirements.
- Coordinated the submission of nearly 160 general education course submission narratives to the College Senate Curriculum Committee.
- Spearheaded the design and implementation of a campus wide Major and Minor Fair that is now an annual campus event.
- Contributed to a campus wide student retention initiative, Roar 2 Success, that started in fall 2023.

**Associate Dean, School of Natural and Social Sciences (SNSS), SUNY Buffalo State
January 2019-May 2021**

I began the associate dean position in January 2019 in an interim capacity and was appointed to associate dean in September 2019. The primary duties of this position was ensuring accurate and consistent communication flow of academic policies to 13 department chairs, five interdisciplinary unit program coordinators, and directly to school faculty. Specific duties included curriculum development for 56 registered programs, as well as dozens of local minors and all courses; coordination of program and general education assessment; keeping abreast of and providing guidance on new curriculum initiatives (e.g., certificates, microcredentials, and combined pathways); overseeing annual catalog review and academic roadmap updates; and managing school-level academic standards and student success policies and procedures. In addition, I was responsible for the management of the academic equipment budget (equipment requests/allocation of SUNY Academic Equipment Replacement funds totaling approximately \$50,000). Highlights of my tenure as associate dean include:

- Created an inventory of SNSS program assessment documents and worked with department chairs to develop assessment plans and curriculum maps for non-accredited programs.
- Developed a school-level guidance document to improve the process of program review of non-accredited majors, which resulted in more timely submission of documents supporting program review.
- When the COVID-19 pandemic began and in-person instruction shut down in March 2020, I worked closely with the dean and colleagues from across campus on the Academic Success Collaborative to ensure a smooth transition for both faculty and students to remote learning.
- Contributed to a campus team that developed a multiple measures assessment for placement method to place first-year students in introductory math and writing courses with the goal of increasing student success in these gateway courses.
- Led the drafting of an updated academic misconduct policy that was referred to the College Senate and approved by the Buffalo State President (June 2021).
- From January through May 2021, I was appointed by the provost to collaborate with my School of Arts and Humanities counterpart to coordinate a smooth transition from two academic schools into one.

**Department Chair, Geography and Planning Department, SUNY Buffalo State
September 2009-August 2018 (on sabbatical September-December 2018)**

I served as chair of the Geography and Planning Department for nine years. While serving as chair, the department generally consisted of seven full-time faculty, one full-time lecturer, one GIS Lab Manager, and three to five adjunct teaching faculty. The number of students in the undergraduate programs geography and planning typically totaled between 50 and 70, with an additional 20 students enrolled in department minors. Highlights of my tenure as department chair include:

- Under my leadership, the department created a B.S. in Environmental Geography and a GIS certificate.
- Boosted course scheduling efficiency by creating a three-year course rotation schedule.
- Led department faculty members in creating an advisement guide that outlined recommended courses and minor programs for students in each of our major programs.
- Oversaw the department operating budget (~\$8,000), as well as foundation accounts with funds that were primarily spent on student awards and activities.
- Prioritized faculty and staff recognition by nominating two department colleagues for awards, one for the President's Award in Excellence in Teaching and one for the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching.
- Invited by the school dean to serve on the peer mentoring design team of a SUNY Performance Improvement Fund (PIF)-funded grant project on retention initiatives that included peer mentoring, supplemental instruction, and a summer bridge program.
- Represented the department's teaching and research interests while serving as co-chair of the Great Lakes Center Graduate Program Committee that developed the Great Lakes Environmental Science (GLES) M.A. and M.S. programs.

EDUCATION

- | | |
|----------|---|
| May 2001 | Ph.D. in Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. Dissertation title: "Geomorphological Processes in Meandering and Straight Reaches of an Agricultural Stream in East Central Illinois: Relations to Aquatic Habitat." Dr. Bruce L. Rhoads, advisor. |
| May 1997 | M.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies (Environmental Science), SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo, New York. Thesis title: "The Effects of Storm Events on Sediment Flocculation in a River Basin." Dr. Kim N. Irvine, advisor. |
| May 1994 | B.S. in Urban Regional Analysis and Planning (Environmental Planning) and a minor in Environmental Science, SUNY Buffalo State, Buffalo, New York. |

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

- "Dr. Kelly Frothingham Day" proclamation by the Erie County Legislature in appreciation for dedicated service and significant contributions to the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District: December 19, 2023
- President's Award for Excellence in Service to the College, SUNY Buffalo State: October 2013
- Certificate of Completion in recognition of completing the Achieving Success through Leadership Program, SUNY Buffalo State: September 2012
- Certificate of Completion in recognition of completing the Emerging College Leaders Program, SUNY Buffalo State: January 2012
- SUNY Buffalo State Young Alumnus Achievement Award: September 2008

GAIA BISTULFI AMMAN, Ph.D.

Buffalo, NY 14201 | 716-361-1653 | gaia.bistulfi@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/gaiabamman](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gaiabamman)

[AUTHOR] EDITOR|SCIENTIST|MULTILINGUAL

Expert in impactful and effective communication through creative and academic writing with a unique blend of analytical rigor and creativity. Skills in data analysis, storytelling, editing, and proofreading demonstrated by novels, research articles, commentaries, editorials, and reviews published in prestigious, peer-reviewed international journals. Several awarded grants by major agencies and public speaking experience. Senior Editor experience at a top U.S. publisher. Teaching experience in biology and genetics at the university level. Adept in curriculum and program development, public speaking, and educational leadership. Passionate about minorities, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Multilingual: English, Italian, Spanish, and French.

KEY SKILLS

Creative Writing · Communication Academic Writing · Developmental Editing · Line Editing · Copy Editing · Proof Reading · Publishing · Promotional Copy · Book Reviews · Book Design (Covers and Interior) · Public Speaking · Leadership · Teamwork · Multitasking · Interpersonal Skills · Attention to Detail

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Kuki Publishing | Buffalo, NY

2015 – Current

AUTHOR | PUBLISHER

- Edited over 50 novels by other authors, including developmental editing, line editing, and copy editing/proofing.
- Authored "Vincitore Academy" trilogy. Young-adult romance novels dealing with self-discovery, equity, and privilege. Published by Readict Publishing Inc.
- Presented (invited) "With Heart" for Buffalo is Creative. March 12, 2021, Buffalo, NY.
- Authored "In the Arms of Morpheus" A novel by G. B. Amman, July 2020, Kuki Publishing.
- Authored "Singles & Other Singularities" A novel by G. B. Amman, December, 2019, Kuki Publishing.
- Authored "The Immigrant. An Italian in America" A novel by G. B. Amman, May 7th, 2019, Kuki Publishing.
- Authored "Happily. Ever After? An Italian Relationship." A novel by G. B. Amman, November 6th, 2018, Kuki Publishing.
- Authored (invited) "Like David Bowie to Queen Victoria" a short story. G. Bistulfi. *No Boundaries* magazine by Rise Collaborative, September 25th, 2018.
- Authored "Finding Leda" A novel by G. Bistulfi Amman, February 6th, 2018, Kuki Publishing.
- Authored "Sex-O-S, Surviving the First Time" A novel by G. Bistulfi Amman, November 6, 2017, Kuki Publishing.
- Guest on You Tube Show "Big Words I know by Heart", Episode 36, "Sequence," March 2017.
- Guest on Elizabeth Johnston's podcast "Own your Creativity," episode 56, "Creativity is Worth It," March 2017.
- Interviewed by Nature for the article "Culture: Cultivate the Muse" by Susan Moran, Nature 542, 381–383 (16 February 2017).
- Authored "Linked, Will Empathy Save the United Terrestrial Democracy?" A novel by G. B. Amman, January 26, 2017, Kuki Publishing.
- Authored "Forget Nico, Falling for the Wrong Italian" A novel by G. Bistulfi Amman, May 1st 2016, Kuki Publishing.
- Presented (invited) "The science of love" Creative Mornings Buffalo, July 2016, Buffalo, NY.
- Presented (invited) "Woman and novelist" by The National League of American Pen Women, April 16, 2016, Buffalo NY.
- Presented (invited) "Why Don't We Talk About Sex? Or...Something About Italy" Pecha Kucha Buffalo, February 4th, 2016, Buffalo NY.
- Authored "Out of the Nest, An Italian Summer" A novel by G. Bistulfi Amman, January 31 2016, Kuki Publishing.
- Presented (invited) "Growing up in Italy in the 80s becomes a novel" Buffalo Italian Cultural Center, December 9, 2015, Buffalo, NY.

- Authored "An Italian Adventure, It Will All Make (Less) Sense When you Grow up", A novel, Bistulfi Amman G, November 1st, 2015, Kuki Publishing.

ACADEMIC WRITER | FREELANCING EDITOR

- Peer-reviewed for 5 international journals in epigenetics, biotechnology, and molecular biology.
- Authored "Pushing Active Learning into Assessment with A Genetics Escape-Room Final: Gamification to Develop Team Skills in STEM, on Ground and Online." G. Bistulfi, **Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice**, (ISSN# 2158-3595), 21(11), 2021
- Authored "The role of methylthioadenosine phosphorylase in prostate cancer" G. Bistulfi, B.A. Foster, E. Karasik, B. Gillard, J. Miecznikowski, V.K. Dhiman, D.J. Smiraglia. **Oncotarget**, 2016 Feb 18.
- Authored "Reduce, reuse and recycle lab waste" G. Bistulfi, **Nature** 2013 Oct 10;502(7470):170.
- Authored "Dietary folate deficiency blocks prostate cancer progression in the TRAMP model." G. Bistulfi, B.A. Foster, E. Karasik, B. Gillard, J. Miecznikowski, V.K. Dhiman, D.J. Smiraglia. **Cancer Prevention Research**, 2011 Nov;4(11):1825-34. Epub 2011 Aug 11.
- Authored "Plasma pentosidine: a potential biomarker in the management of multiple sclerosis." Sternberg Z, Hennies C, Sternberg D, Bistulfi GL, Kazim L, Benedict RH, Chadha K, Leung C, Weinstock-Guttman B, Munschauer F. **Mult Scler**. 2010 Oct 21.
- Authored "Mild folate deficiency induces genetic and epigenetic instability and phenotype changes in prostate cancer cells" Bistulfi G, VanDette E, Matsui S, Smiraglia DJ. In press, **BMC Biology** 2010, Jan 21 8:6.
- Authored "Polyamine Biosynthesis Impacts Cellular Folate Requirements necessary to maintain s-adenosylmethionine and nucleotide pools" Bistulfi G, Diegelman P, Foster BA, Kramer DL, Porter CW, Smiraglia DJ. **FASEB J** 2009 Sep;23(9):2888-97. Epub May 5.
- Authored "Derangement of a factor upstream of RARα triggers the repression of a pleiotropic epigenetic network" Corlazzoli F*, Rossetti S*, Bistulfi G*, Ren MQ, and Sacchi N. **PLoS ONE**. 2009;4(1):e4305. Epub 2009 Jan 28
*These authors contributed equally to this work
- Authored "A novel role for mitochondria in regulating epigenetic modification in the nucleus" Smiraglia DJ, Kulawiec M, Bistulfi G, Ghoshal S, Singh KK. **Cancer Biol Ther**. 2008 May 1;7(8).
- Authored "A repressive epigenetic domino effect confers susceptibility to breast epithelial transformation. Implications for predicting breast cancer risk" Bistulfi G, Pozzi S, Ren MQ, Rossetti S, and Sacchi N. **Cancer Res** 2006 Nov 1(66) 21: 10308-14.
- Authored "RAR-mediated epigenetic control of the cytochrome P450 Cyp26a1 in embryocarcinoma cells" Pozzi S, Rossetti S, Bistulfi G and Sacchi N. **Oncogene** 2006 Mar 2;25(9):1400-1407
- Authored "Impaired RA-signal Leads to RARβ2 Epigenetic Silencing and RA-resistance" Ren MQ, Pozzi S, Bistulfi G, Somenzi G, Rossetti S and Sacchi N. **Mol Cell Biol**. 2005 Dec;25(23):10591-10603

McGraw Hill | New York, New York

2022– 2024

SENIOR EDITOR

- Edited (developmental editing, line editing, and copy editing) of over 400 articles about medicine, chemistry, psychology, paleontology, and biology
- Recruited 30 subject matter experts in microbiology, virology, molecular biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Public Health, and Chemistry.
- Managed eighteen thousands articles.

D'Youville University| Buffalo, NY

2019– 2022

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | CHAIRPERSON

- Managed a team of 25 faculty members, two administrative assistants, and a lab technician.
- Developed new Biology Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Biology Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) majors.
- Developed and taught 12 courses in Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Genetics, and Anatomy, 7 of them new.
- Won Professor of the Year Award and Researcher of the Year Award.
- Secured a \$650K National Science Foundation award for equity in Science Technology Engineering Medicine (STEM) education.
- Presented at 35 at international meetings in Epigenetics, Molecular Biology, Cancer Research, and Higher Educa-

tion.

- Received 12 funded grants including from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the American Institute for Cancer Research.

EDUCATION|PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT| LANGUAGES

Milan University| Milan, Italy

- DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) in MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY
- MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) IN MEDICINE SUMMA CUM LAUDE
- BIOTECHNOLOGY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Wesleyan University| Middletown, CT

- CREATIVE WRITING CERTIFICATE (The Mastery of Plot)
- CREATIVE WRITING CERTIFICATE (The Craft of Characters)

D'Youville University| Buffalo, NY

- Diversity training: Managing Implicit Bias to Promote Equality: Part I and Part II, D'Youville University
- "Unseen Tears: The Native American Boarding School Experience in Western New York" Workshop on Native culture and trauma held by Native Cultural Center for DYU members 2020
- "Queer Film" (ENG348) - D'Youville University, Buffalo NY

Languages

- English
- Italian
- French
- Spanish

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-15	COUNTY EXECUTIVE	Re-Appointment to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Directors
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Attachments

25COMM. 2E-15



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St., 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Re-appointment to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

Dear Honorable Members,

Pursuant to Section 2204 of the Erie County Charter, I hereby re-appoint and submit for your confirmation of the following individuals to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Board of Directors with terms expiring on December 31, 2029:

Alan J. Bedenko
1111 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Carima El-Behairy
46 Berkley Place
Buffalo, NY 14209

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact my office at 858-8500.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

cc: Appointees
John Spears, Library Director (spearsj@buffalolib.org)
MCP/nn

Carima El-Behairy

Buffalo, NY 14209 • (716) 983-3431 cell • www.ccelbehairy.com

Email: carima@ccelbehairy.com ▪ LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/carimaelbehairy

Executive / Community Leader / Business Owner

An accomplished Chief Executive Officer and Business leader with a proven track record. Years of experience in Finance, Operations, Fundraising, Grants and Team management, as well as the ability to strategically and accurately plan for the future using data and recognizing opportunities.

CCE Consulting, Founder

2016 to Present

- Focused on Women Owned Businesses and non-profits in transition, after merger, and restructuring to achieve success by meeting financial, growth and strategic goals.
 - Focused on Earned Revenue Modeling, to moving non-profits from a grant reliant budget to earned revenue.
- 2024 clients include:** Earthwise Pets, Hamburg NY; Black & Ginger, Warsaw Poland; and welcome2bflo.com

Buffalo Heritage Carousel Inc. (BHC)

2020 to March 2024

Executive Director, August 2021 to December 31, 2023

Director of Operations and Development, October 2020 to August 2021

Consultant, January 1, 2024 to March 2024

Pilot Workforce Development Program launched February 2024, a collaboration between the BHC and McKinley High School, giving students the opportunity to learn about restoration, engineering and history, and opening doors to the trades and the Buffalo State Restoration Department.

Took over the stalled \$6.8M project, opening to the public May 28, 2021, with over 200,000 riders in 28 months of operation. 2024 was fully funded and re-opened April 1, 2024.

- Reported directly to the Board of Directors and part of the executive team.
- Member of the Governance, Finance and Education Committees

Human Resources

- Responsible for all hiring and onboarding of staff, and volunteers as well as termination
- Ensured all training is current and up-to-date, for employees and volunteers.
- Ensured continuing education is available for employees and volunteers

Operations

- Created and maintains all internal policies
- Created the e-commerce website, its implementation and redesign in May of 2022.
- Oversaw the website and content & all social media content.
- Created and implemented the 2020-2024 Strategic plan, across all departments of the organization, including the board responsibilities.
- Expanded each department by restructuring and targeting neglected revenue streams to fund them such as: Education; Membership; Docents and restoration.

Facility

- Managed the physical site, in addition to the Maintenance Team, and assigned repairs as needed as well as all inspections
- Ensured proper permits from the State and city are current
- Created all compliance documents such as the approved Covid-19 opening plans, for the State of New York, Department of Labor and the City of Buffalo.

Financial

- Created the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 operating budgets.
- Sourced all purchases, for operations and capital.
- Ensured 2024 is fully funded with Public and Private grants, Sponsorship and earned revenue.
- Oversight of the AR/AP department, and grants tracking
- Created and Implemented all financial controls for the entire operation.

Development

- Created membership, sponsor and donor opportunities.
- Created, implemented and oversight of the new grants program. Responsible for all grants and tracking.
- Personally raised 75% of the 2023 budget and 100% of the 2024 budget.

External

- Spokesperson for the organization
- Appeared in over 100 media articles, videos and magazine interviews locally and Internationally from October 2020 to January 2024, representing the organization.
- Understood key stakeholders and keeping them engaged, from the Board of Directors to political leaders and funders to the media and cultural partners.

Career History (Continued)**Association Typographique Internationalé (ATYPi)****2015 to present****Treasurer from 2015 -2018, 2024 CFO from 2018 to 2023****Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Lead for the annual conference in Brisbane 2024**

Industry Leader in the promotion and education of typography in a challenging global environment. Managing Atypi's earned revenue, as a 501 c 3 California Corporation, with an international Board of Directors, from an office located in Buffalo, NY.

Managing clients that include Adobe, Microsoft, Monotype, Oracle, Google, Apple, and multiple smaller foundries. Driving the processes to ensure success even in times of hardship or recession. Currently, Atypi maintains an average of 300 days revenue at all times, as well as engaging full time staff located globally. Part of the Executive Team, working towards establishing economic independence. Reviews all contracts, oversees all accounting transactions, meets with stakeholders to promote Atypi Internationally, attends all committee and board meetings.

Works with the Executive Director to produce Board packets, including and not limited to: the Annual Budget; Programming projections; P/L; 990 Review; Cash flow, Conference budget and strategic planning.

P22 Inc. DBA P22 type foundry**1999 to July 1, 2017**

P22 type foundry (P22) is a boutique design house specializing in the design and distribution of digital type, commonly known as fonts, with a current library of over 1,700 typefaces. One of the oldest and most successful type foundries worldwide, P22's primary focus is the revival and digitization of historical typefaces.

Co-Founder, Managing Partner and CFO

Led P22 to achieve industry recognition for its commitment to collaborating with museums and foundations to produce accurate products, thereby ensuring both name recognition and financial support for their programs.

- **Managing Partner** – Managed a full-time staff of nine, in addition to five consultants and 28 independent designers worldwide. Responsible for all HR decisions for the company as well as the facilities, and overseeing the day-to-day office management, including all purchases and expenditures. Responsible for all aspects of the facilities.
- **Museum, Foundation & Designer Licensing** – Initiated and maintained contact with all museums, foundations and designers. Served as point person for all current and existing projects. Ensured all royalties are attributed accurately and paid on time.

Worked with the licensing department of the following Foundations and Museums: The Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Artist Right Society, ASAP, the Burchfield Penney Art Center, the FLLW Foundation, Hamilton Wood Type Museum, Josef Albers Foundation, LAMOCA, London Transport Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Oversaw product licensing including contracts with new designers, licensed products, distributors, and End User License Agreement (EULA) modifications, as well as legal actions and contract modifications.

- **Finance & Budgeting** – Created long-term projections and budgets. Oversaw \$2M in assets and a \$750K annual budget. Managed the division and posting of dividends to partners. Oversaw tax filings, Schedule K filings, royalties and insurance.
- **Project Management** – Lead the Hamilton Wood Type Project (Jul 2012 to 2017). Acted as lead contact/coordinator between P22, Hamilton, and Adobe regarding the marketing and 2014 rollout of three original typefaces designed by Adobe. Responsible for contracts, timelines and marketing.
- **Acquisitions & Divestitures** – Negotiated the 2004 purchase and acquisition of Lanston Type Foundry, founded in 1887; secured all past, current, and future IP rights in perpetuity. Purchased Rimmer Type Foundry in 2005; secured all IP rights: for all designs by living artists. Sold the Rimmer Type foundry to Canada Type in 2012, six years after purchase for 3X purchase price.
- **Industry Leadership** – Guest speaker, representing P22 at industry conferences, including and not limited to: Typecon, TypoBerlin, TypoLondon, TypoSanFrancisco, Pecha Cucha NYC, Atypi Conferences, Museum Store Association Conferences, the Business of Type at Microsoft, Communicators of WNY and Wazgoose in Wisconsin.

Community Organizations, Founder**Western New York Book Arts Collaborative****2006 to 2012**

The WNYBAC promotes greater understanding of printing and book-related arts through education, creation, and exhibition. The Center features a letterpress and screen-printing studio, a gallery, a working print museum, and a boutique. **Co-Founder, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees**

Co-founded and incorporated the organization; filed for 501 (c)(3) status on behalf of the organization, which was received within 3 months and backdated to original date of incorporation without a probationary period; also filed for NYS Charities status.

- **Grant Writing** – Authored grants and received \$198K in funding for new programming from the Richard W. Rupp Family Foundation, James H. Cummings Foundation, Marks Family Foundation, M&T Foundation, John R. Oishei Foundation, Western New York Foundation and Council Member Darius Pridgen, City of Buffalo and Erie County, 2010-2012.

- **Finance & Budgeting** – Developed and presented all budgets to Board of Trustees. Created and implemented revenue streams that provided the basis for the “Earned Revenue Model” which removed all reliance on grants for operations.
- **Community Liaison** – Advocated on behalf of WNYBAC to City, County, and State Legislators. Acted as liaison to the Buffalo Public Schools Hearts program, and BPS.
- **Board Leadership** – Chaired the Finance Committee, Board Nominating Committee, Board Development Committee, Facilities Committee, and Annual NYE Fundraiser. Provided Board training; authored strategic plans; Chair of the first Executive Director Search in 2011.

Western New York Charter School Coalition

2004 to 2009

The Coalition represented all the charter schools in Western New York, acting as a strategic partner in teacher training, board training, and administration best practices.

Co-Founder, Chairman of the Board, 2008 to 2009

Vice Chairman, 2006 to 2007

Search Committee Chair, 2005

Member at Large, 2004 to 2005

- **Organizational Leadership** – Hired the Executive Director in 2005; served as Board Member and Treasurer at Oracle Charter School, and Board Member and Vice President at Sankofa Charter School; also served as Chair of the Coalition’s Merger Committee.

Oracle Charter School

2002 to 2007

Oracle Charter School empowered students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible citizens who are able to meet life’s challenges and succeed.

Co-Founder, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees

Chair of the Facilities Committee

- **Finance & Treasury** – Co-authored and created the budget for the Charter School application submitted to SUNY. Developed banking relationships; performed due diligence and found the investment group that enabled the school to finance and purchase its own building.
- **Organizational Leadership** – Recruited Board of Trustees members; created and chaired the Finance Committee; advocated on behalf of the school in the community and in political arenas.

Current Community Leadership

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees March 2019 to December 2025 re-appointed January 2022.

- **Vice Chairperson, elected 2022**

Overseeing 37 libraries, 300+ employees and the \$34M annual Budget

The Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County January 2020 to December 2023

- **Vice President, Board of Trustees**

Oversight of \$4M+ budget and directing funds to support the Buffalo and Erie Co. Library

Association Typographique Internationale (ATYPi) 2012 to 2027

- **Treasurer, 2015 to 2018, 2024-27**
- **Chair, Governance Committee and Finance Committee**

Basenji Rescue & Transport (BRAT) 1994 to present

- **In Home evaluator, foster,**
- **WNY/S. Ontario Transporter**

Past Community Board Leadership

Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York (PPCWN) 2014 to December 31, 2018

Treasurer, 2014 to 2018 Chair, Finance Committee,
Executive Director Search, 2016

Irish Classical Theatre Co. 2010 to 2016

Board Member

Chair, Development Committee Member, Board Development Committee, Member, Strategic Planning Committee

Planned Parenthood of WNY 2005-2014

Treasurer, 2013 – 2014,

President, 2011 – 2012, Chair, Merger Committee, 2011 – 2012

Vice President, 2009 – 2011, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, 2010

Treasurer, 2005 – 2009, Chair, Finance Committee, 2005 – 2009

Past Community Board Leadership

(Continued)

Sankofa Charter School 2007 to 2009

Vice President, 2007 – 2009

Burchfield Penney Art Center

Committee Member, Capital Campaign 2006 to 2008,

Frederick Law Olmsted School 2005 to 2008

OPTO Vice President, 2007 – 2008

Planned Parenthood of Buffalo and Erie County 2004 to 2005,

Co-Treasurer, 2004 – 2005

Westminster Early Childhood Center 2000 to 2003,

Secretary of the Board, 2003

Fair Co-Chair, 2001, Fair Chair, 2002

Brainstorm 2000 to 2001,

Vice Chairperson, 2001

Show Co-Chair, 2000

Art Directors of Buffalo - Merged into Brainstorm 1997 to 1999

Member at Large, Merger Committee, Branding & Identity Committee

Education / Professional Development

State University of New York College at Buffalo

Bachelor of Science in Design Minor in Business Administration

Lawrence Institute of Technology

Associates in Architecture

State University of New York at Buffalo

Non-Profit Accounting Certification Program

Harvard Business School Club of Buffalo

Management Development Program

Awards and Honors

“VIP Woman of the Year”

March 2013

National Association of Professional Women (NAPW)

“Women Who Mean Business”

September 2005

Business First Magazine

Mentoring / Community

“Women to Women Mentor Program” 2006 to 2008

Mentor, Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Berkshire Young Women and Girls Entrepreneur Conference, April 2007,

Mentor, Canisius College

Everywoman Opportunity Center 2012 to 2013

Instructor, Business 101, Business 102 Courses

Western New York Book Arts Collaborative 2008 to 2012

Field Trip and Workshop Instructor

Personal and Professional References upon request

ALAN J. BEDENKO
1111 Elmwood Avenue • Apartment 304 • Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 903-6255 • abedenko@gmail.com

Bar Admission

- State of New York, Third Department, April 1995
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, December 1994 (ret'd)
- United States District Court, Western District of New York
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York

Experience

2019 – present Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, PC Buffalo, NY
Partner

- Trial of insurance defense civil matters throughout New York State, including medical malpractice, general liability, premises liability, automotive and truck liability, construction site accidents, and attorney malpractice
- Motion practice, court appearances, and appellate practice routinely
- Handle litigation from intake through discovery and trial
- Conduct jury and bench trials throughout New York State
- Participate in mediation and arbitration

2018 - 2019 Burden, Hafner & Hansen, LLC Buffalo, NY
Associate

- Trial of insurance defense civil matters throughout New York State, including general liability, automotive and truck liability, employment discrimination matters, and attorney malpractice
- Motion practice, court appearances, and appellate practice routinely
- Handle litigation from intake through discovery and trial
- Conduct jury and bench trials throughout New York State
- Participate in mediation and arbitration

2010 – 2018 Feldman Kieffer, LLP Buffalo, NY
Partner

- Trial of insurance defense civil matters in all trial courts in New York State, including general liability, municipal liability, lead paint litigation, asbestos litigation, employment matters, automobile liability, nursing home negligence, and environmental torts.
- Motion practice, court appearances, appellate practice routinely
- Development of new business, and maintenance of existing business

ALAN J. BEDENKO

**1111 Elmwood Avenue • Apartment 304 • Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 903-6255 • abedenko@gmail.com**

- Conduct jury and bench trials in all courts in New York State • Participate in private and court-appointed mediation
- Private arbitrator for attorneys throughout western New York

2001 – 2010
Staff Counsel

Travelers Insurance

Buffalo, NY

- Trial of insurance defense civil matters in all trial courts in Western New York including general liability, subrogation, and automobile liability
- Motion practice, court appearances, appellate practice
- Handled over 60 unique matters at any given time, including subrogation prosecution

1997-2001
Sole Practitioner

Law Office of Alan J. Bedenko

Boston, MA

- Trial of civil matters in District, Superior and Federal District Courts.
- Trial of criminal matters in District Courts.
- Appointed to represent indigent criminal defendants in Brookline District Court.
- Grew firm from clientele of zero, to successful practice concentrating on housing litigation, personal injury law, consumer protection matters, and criminal defense.
- Solely responsible for marketing, web design, firm management.

1994-1997
Associate

Boone & Henkoff

Boston, MA

- Trial of civil matters in District, Superior and Federal District Courts.
- Assisted partner with prosecution and defense of various civil and criminal matters.
- Developed concise and persuasive writing and verbal styles.

1991-1994
Regulatory Scientist

Pepsi-Cola International

Valhalla, NY

- Monitored and researched domestic and international regulatory issues concerning food and the environment as relevant to corporation.
- Created and implemented environmental compliance programs for bottlers and concentrate facilities.
- Assisted in creation and implementation of regulatory strategies involving foreign and domestic bottled water, refillable plastic containers and the phase-out of ozone-depleting chemicals.

ALAN J. BEDENKO
1111 Elmwood Avenue • Apartment 304 • Buffalo, New York 14222
(716) 903-6255 • abedenko@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

2015 – date: Member of the Board of Trustees, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
2017 – 2019: Vice-Chairman
2020: Secretary
2021 - 2024: Treasurer

2014, 2015: Named to Buffalo Business First's "Power 250" List of Most Influential People in western New York

2015 – 2019: Contributor to *The Public*

2011 – 2014: Contributor to *Artvoice*

2007 – 2017: Member of Clarence Democratic Committee

2004 - 2014: Contributor to the *Buffalo Spree*

2010: Delegate to Erie County Judicial Nominating Convention

2003 – 2011: Contributor to *WNYMedia.net*

2004 – 2008: President (2005 – 2007) and member of the board of directors of the WNY Coalition for Progress, a non-partisan think tank

2007: Candidate for Erie County Legislature, District 4

2005, 2006: Revived and operated a volunteer effort to restore Santa's Park to Chestnut Ridge Park after it had been cut from the county budget. Raised over \$2,000 for the Food Bank of WNY

EDUCATION

1994	Pace University School of Law	White Plains, NY
	• J.D.: Dean's List: Fall 1992 – Spring 1994 • American Jurisprudence Award for Excellence in Trial Practice 1994	
1990	Boston University	Boston, MA
	• B.A., Political Science	

SKILLS

Conversational fluency in Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian (f.k.a. Serbo-Croatian).
Minimal understanding of Russian, French, German.

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-16

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Appointment to the Mental Hygiene
Community Services Board

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-16



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EC LEG JAN 10 '25 PM 3:07

January 10, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Appointment to the Mental Hygiene Community Services Board

Dear Honorable Members,

Pursuant to the powers vested in me by Section 1303 of the Erie County Charter, I hereby appoint the following person to the Erie County Mental Hygiene Community Services Board for a term ending December 31, 2026.

Pastor George Nicholas
34 Roman Lane
Amherst, NY 14226

Should you have any questions regarding this appointment please feel free to contact my office at (716)858-8500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

MCP/nn

cc: Mark O'Brien, Commissioner of Erie County Department of Mental Health
Appointee

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-17

COMPTROLLER

EC Comptroller's Peer to Peer Review

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-17



EC LEG JAN 14 '25 AM 9:55

ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER
KEVIN R. HARDWICK

January 14, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Erie County Comptroller's Peer to Peer Review

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find a copy of my office's completed peer to peer review, issued by Tronconi Segarra & Associates. Attached. This document covers the time period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. As always, I'm available for any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. R. Hardwick", is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin R. Hardwick, Ph.D.
Erie County Comptroller

cc: Mark Cornell, Director of Budget and Management
Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive

December 19, 2024

Kevin R. Hardwick
Erie County Comptroller
Erie County Office Building
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Mr. Hardwick,

We have completed a peer review of the Division of Audit and Control of the Erie County Comptroller's Office (the "Division") for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023, and issued our report thereon dated December 19, 2024. We are issuing this companion letter to offer certain findings and recommendations stemming from our peer review.

We would like to mention some of the areas in which we believe the Division excels:

- The Division has made significant improvements in documentation and consistency throughout its electronic workpapers, particularly in 2023. Signoffs are consistent, supporting documentation is more robust, and the organization of workpapers is more streamlined and logically structured.
- Communication with the auditee is not only well documented but also consistently professional. The Division ensures that all interactions are clearly recorded, fostering transparency and maintaining a high level of professionalism throughout the audit process. This proactive communication enhances mutual understanding and trust between the audit team and the auditee.

To assist the Division in achieving full compliance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we also offer the following findings and recommendations, which we did not consider to be reportable deficiencies.

The observations below pertain specifically to audits conducted prior to 2023:

1. Documentation of Independence Threats

Finding – We noted that one audit from 2021 identified a threat to independence; however, no additional follow-up or resolution regarding how the threat was mitigated was documented within the audit file. Additionally, another audit from 2021 had no documentation within the audit file indicating that threats to independence were identified or evaluated.

Recommendation – We recommend that the Division’s office ensures that audit teams document any identified threats to independence, apply the necessary safeguards, and provide detailed follow-up documentation showing that the threats have been addressed and mitigated to an acceptable level.

2. **Governmental Continuing Professional Education**

Finding – In 2021, one of the Division’s auditors did not obtain the required governmental Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits.

Recommendation – We recommend that the Deputy Comptroller for Audit ensures that all audit department employees obtain the appropriate amount of governmental CPE credits for each two-year period. To facilitate this, a tracking system should be implemented to monitor CPE credit completion and compliance, and reminders should be issued well in advance of deadlines to prevent recurrence.

3. **Audit Team Member Identification**

Finding – We noted that nine audits did not clearly document the name of the assigned engagement director in the audit file. Instead, there were sporadic workpaper signoffs by an engagement director, rather than the audit supervisor.

Recommendation – We recommend that the Division ensures all members of the audit team are clearly identified within the audit file, including on the Audit Planning Memorandum. This should include the names of the assigned engagement director to enhance clarity and accountability throughout the audit process.

4. **Comprehensive Documentation of Audit Findings**

Finding – We noted that workpapers from audits performed in 2021 do not sufficiently document the criteria, condition, cause, and effect of the findings. While some internal control deficiencies were documented as findings, it was not clear whether those deficiencies were the actual findings or the cause of the findings. The workpapers focused on documenting the results of the audit testing without including the other elements of a finding and how the results of audit testing related to each element.

Recommendation – We recommend that the Division’s audit teams ensure that audit testing procedures, the audit program, and the audit report include all five elements of a finding: criteria, condition, cause, effect, and recommendation. This comprehensive documentation will provide a clearer understanding of the findings and enhance the overall quality and effectiveness of the audit process.

5. Audit Methodology Appendix

Finding – Three audit reports from 2021 did not include an audit methodology appendix in the final report or lacked a discussion and description of the sampling methodology used within the methodology appendix of the report.

Recommendation – We recommend that the Division ensures that all audit reports include an appendix that documents the audit methodology, including a detailed description of the sampling methodology used for the audit. This will improve the transparency and clarity of the audit process.

We extend our thanks to you, your staff, and the other officials we met for the hospitality and cooperation extended to us during our review.

Tronconi Segura & Associates LLP

Williamsville, New York
December 19, 2024

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-18 SHERIFF FY 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant

25COMM. 2E-18 Attachments

JOHN C. GARCIA
SHERIFF
WILLIAM J. COOLEY
UNDERSHERIFF



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
10 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202-3913
(716) 858-7618
FAX: (716) 858-7882
WEBSITE: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff>

SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

January 13, 2025

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: FY 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant

Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to allow Erie County and the Erie County Sheriff's Office to accept the FY2024 Stonegarden Grant and enter into an agreement with participating agencies.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Office will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

John C. Garcia
Sheriff of Erie County

Attachments

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Re: FY 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant
Date: January 13, 2025

Summary of Recommended Action

This proposed resolution requests authorization for Erie County and the Erie County Sheriff's Office to enter into an agreement and receive funding in the amount of \$243,000.00 from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for Operation Stonegarden (OPSG).

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

There are no fiscal implications on county tax dollars.

Reasons for Recommendation

The mission of OPSG is to enhance cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies to secure the United States' borders. The Erie County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit works closely with federal partners to provide homeland security and prevent and respond to illegal entry. The funding provided in this grant enhances law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the northern border.

Consequences of Negative Action

Failure to approve this resolution will result in the Erie County Sheriff's Office and participating partner agencies forfeiting \$243,000.00 in funding to support northern border security.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of the approved resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, the Division of Purchase, the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller and the Sheriff's Office.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Re: FY 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, has awarded \$243,000.00 for FY2024 to Erie County to increase security along the northern border; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office will coordinate with police agencies in the cities of Buffalo, Tonawanda and Lackawanna and the towns of Tonawanda, Lancaster, Hamburg, Evans and Brant; and

WHEREAS, these patrols support the U.S. Border Patrol's mission of protecting the international borders from human trafficking and illegal drug operations, as well as apprehending terrorists and others intent on conducting illegal activities on U.S. soil; and

WHEREAS, the funds will be used for overtime and fringe benefits of the participating law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, this resolution accepts \$243,000.00 in grant funding and will provide all expenses needed to support this program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive and Sheriff to enter into an agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to accept \$243,000.00 for FY2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, the funds be allocated as follows in fund center 11510:

FY2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant
September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2027

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
414000 – Federal Revenue	\$243,000.00
 <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	 <u>INCREASE</u>
501000 – Overtime	\$30,000.00
502000 – Fringe Benefits	\$8,750.00
516010 – Contractual Payments	\$114,250.00
<u>561410 – Lab and Tech</u>	<u>\$90,000.00</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$243,000.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive and Sheriff are authorized to enter into sub-contracts with the cities of Buffalo, Tonawanda and Lackawanna and the towns of Tonawanda, Lancaster, Hamburg, Evans and Brant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is authorized to make the necessary transfers and any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate these transfers; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Comptroller is authorized to release the designated funds and make payments as necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the County Attorney, the Division of Purchase, the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller and the Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2E-19

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Re-Appointment of the Commissioner of
Personnel

Attachments

25COMM. 2E-19



2025 JAN 13 12:44 PM

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 13, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Re-appointment of the Commissioner of Personnel

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Article 9, Section 901 of the Erie County Charter, I hereby submit for your confirmation the re-appointment Commissioner Brian C. Bray, D.P.A., to the position of the Commissioner of the Department of Personnel with a term expiration of February 4, 2030.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact my Chief of Staff, Benjamin Swanekamp. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive

cc: Appointee
MCP/nn

BRIAN C. BRAY, D.P.A.

ERIE COUNTY PERSONNEL COMMISSIONER

716-258-0131

BRIANCBRAY@GMAIL.COM

ABOUT

Experienced public administrator with a strong background in human resources, policy development, governmental relations, and human services. Currently serving as the Commissioner of Erie County's Personnel Department, overseeing civil service administration for the County, towns, villages, school districts, and special districts. Skilled in ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations, managing payroll and benefits, and leading organizational initiatives.

Previous leadership roles include directing senior services for the Town of Amherst, managing special projects in social services, and serving as a legislative liaison for the County Executive. Committed to improving outcomes for residents through effective policies and programs.

Holds a Doctor of Public Administration from West Chester University, a Master of Public Administration from Hilbert College, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University at Buffalo.

Leadership roles include Chair of the Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals and the Erie County Deferred Compensation Committee, and Board Member for the Labor Management Health Fund, the Buffalo-Niagara Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and Buffalo State University Master of Public Administration Advisory Board.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

Expertise in human resources management, policy analysis, leadership, legislative strategy, public relations, data-driven decision-making, stakeholder engagement, organizational improvement, and compliance with labor laws.

EXPERIENCE

AUG. 2022 - PRESENT

Commissioner, Erie County Department of Personnel
Buffalo, New York

As Personnel Commissioner, oversees the centralized human resources agency for Erie County, which includes 33 employees and a \$5 million budget. The department provides services to over 130 appointing authorities and 26,000 employees. Responsibilities include administering New York State Civil Service Law and ensuring compliance with employment regulations across multiple jurisdictions. Supervises payroll administration, employee benefits programs, and adherence to federal, state, and local labor laws.

DEC. 2021 – AUG. 2022

Policy Director, Office of the County Executive
Buffalo, New York

In this role, advised the County Executive on legislative priorities and policy matters, developing briefings, research materials, and presentations for internal and external stakeholders. Coordinated policy recommendations with government departments, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

JUNE 2020 – DEC. 2021

Senior Services Director, Town of Amherst
Amherst, New York

Directed programming and services at the Amherst Center for Senior Services, supporting the physical and mental well-being of older residents. Responsibilities included analyzing operations to improve performance, preparing and managing budgets, and overseeing purchasing and vendor relations. Planned and supervised educational, social, and recreational activities and built partnerships with government officials, healthcare providers, and community organizations.

DEC. 2013 – MAY 2020

Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Erie County Department of Social Services
Buffalo, New York

Supervised functions such as technical assistance, data reporting, community relations, and language and disability access, overseeing 15 staff members. Served on the department's executive team, managing special projects and IT initiatives, including budget preparation and technology vision implementation. Represented the department before the Legislature, media, and community boards.

JAN. 2012 – DEC. 2013

Legislative Liaison, Office of the Erie County Executive
Buffalo, New York

Facilitated relationships with legislators and staff to secure approvals for initiatives proposed by the County Executive. Managed legislative strategy, provided updates to department heads, and designed presentations and publications for internal and public dissemination.

JAN. 2008 – JUNE 2009
OCT. 2010 – DEC. 2011

Senior Legislative Aide, City of Buffalo Common Council
Buffalo, New York

Supported the Common Council by conducting policy analysis, drafting legislation, and clerking finance and community development committees. Met with constituents, businesses, and non-profit agencies to address legislative concerns and inquiries.

JUNE 2009 – AUG. 2010

Public Affairs Officer, Erie County Water Authority
Buffalo, New York

Led the Public Affairs Unit, managing communications, marketing, and organizational publications such as annual reports and news releases. Served as a member of the senior management team and oversaw the unit's budget and vendor relations.

FEB. 2004 – JAN. 2008

Senior Legislative Clerk, Erie County Legislature
Buffalo, New York

Administered the Legislature's clerical operations, creating agendas, minutes, and certified resolutions. Coordinated a \$1 million Public Benefit program, shepherding grants to non-profit agencies through the approval process.

EDUCATION

December 2023

Doctor of Public Administration

West Chester University, West Chester, PA

Dissertation: *Descriptive Analysis of Open Government Practices of Four Mid-Sized Cities in New York State.*

February 2014

Master of Public Administration

Hilbert College, Hamburg, NY

Thesis: *Imposition of a Development Impact Fee as a Dedicated Funding Source to Combat Vacant and Abandoned Housing.*

June 2002

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

University at Buffalo, Amherst, NY

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

- Chairman, Erie County Deferred Compensation Committee (2022 – Present)
- Member, Board of Trustees, Labor Management Health Fund (2022 – Present)
- Chairperson, Town of Amherst Zoning Board (2021 – Present)
- Executive Committee Member, American Society for Public Administration (Buffalo-Niagara Chapter) (2018 – Present)
- Member, SUNY Buffalo State University's MPA Advisory Board (2024-Present)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)
- Buffalo-Niagara Human Resources Association (BNHRA)
- American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations

Erie County Legislature
Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2D-1	COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES	Comm. 12E-34 Compliance Report - Dec. 2024
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	Attachments
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25COMM. 2D-1



EC LEG JAN 8 '25 PM1:44

COUNTY OF ERIE
MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 8, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St. – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: Comm. 12E-34 Compliance Report

In accordance with Comm. 12E-34, please find an update of Child Protective caseloads for the month of December.

	December	Change Since November
Caseload size at the last day of the Month	1,176	-44
Number of CPS workers assigned at least five cases last day of month	85	-1
Average number of cases per worker	13.84	-0.35
Cases Closed in Month	610	106
Intake during Month	573	-78
Overdue Investigations at the last day of month	257	80
Timely Determinations during month	357	40

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Rybicki, Commissioner
Erie County Department of Social Services

cc: Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2D-2	DIRECTOR OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES	Open Item - Finance & Management Committee
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	Attachments
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25COMM. 2D-2



County of Erie

DEPARTMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

SCOTT A. BYLEWSKI
DIRECTOR REAL PROPERTY
Email: Scott.Bylewski@erie.gov

Office 716-858-2715
Fax 716-858-6440

January 2, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Open Item Finance & Management Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the Stolen Mail and School Tax Resolutions (**20-1** (2024) and **23-1** (2024)), we have included the list of properties impacted and the amounts in interest and penalties waived or refunded which totals **\$3,441.90**. Two of the properties on this list (**in bold**), we are investigating further with the help of the respective towns before a refund is issued, but the amounts have been included in our list. The second list includes six properties that were part of the resolutions but were able to get replacement payments made within the respective school tax deadlines. Thus, they did not incur additional fees or penalties.

Properties with late fees and penalties refunded or waived:

Owner	Owners Address	Business Address	Town	Tax Bill	Amount of Penalties waived
Tim Donut US Limited/Randy Schmitz	7993 Jennings Rd	8645 Erie Road	Evans	5201	\$611.84
40 UNION ST. LLC Randy & Kimberly Schmitz.	7993 Jennings Rd	7988 Jennings Road	Eden	755	\$264.95
Randy and Kimberly Schmitz	7993 Jennings Road	7993 Jennings Rd	Eden	1256	\$512.47

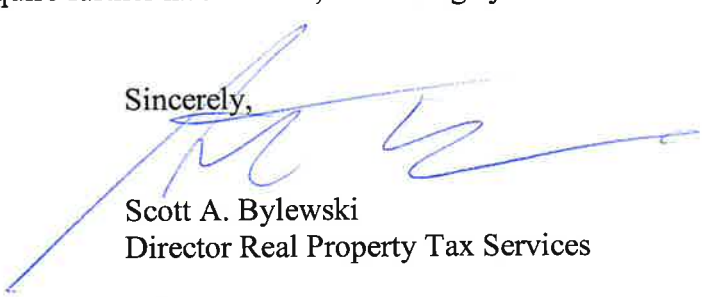
Tim Donut US Limited C/ Ocean Valley Brewing	7993 Jennings Road	8259 N. Main Street	Eden	738	\$825.83
Carol Klein	4676 Eckhardt Road	N/A	Eden	8626	\$220.07
Mark and Linette Blaszak	2355 Burbank Drive	N/A	Lake View	15928	\$388.13
Patrick and Sarah Bapst	24 Pleasant Ave	N/A	Hamburg	47321	\$191.12
John Haier	8901 Sisson Hwy	N/A	Eden	N/A	\$267.14
Eugene and Paulina Williams	60 Fontaine Dr	N/A	Cheektowaga	N/A	\$160.35
Grand Total					\$3,441.90

Properties that incurred neither fees nor interest on their school taxes as they were paid within the deadline:

Owner	Owners Address	Business Address	Town	Tax Bill	Amount of Penalties waived
Gerald Matthews	46 Lombardy Lane	N/A	Hamburg	47080	Paid on time no penalty
Estate of Paul S. Raymond	40 Buffalo Street	N/A	Hamburg	48070	Paid on time no penalty
Sharon Raymond	2500 North Creek Road	N/A	Lake View	50638	Paid on time no penalty
Michael Fitzpatrick/ Maureen O'Brien	112 Torry Drive	N/A	Hamburg	N/A	Paid on time no penalty
Lynne Lasker	293 Prospect	N/A	Hamburg	47192	Paid on time no penalty
Pamela Dibiga	5670 Shero Road	N/A	Hamburg	8937	Paid on time no penalty

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact me at (716) 858-2715.

Sincerely,


Scott A. Bylewski
Director Real Property Tax Services

cc: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2D-3

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie
County

Attachments

25COMM. 2D-3



EC LEG JAN 13 '25 AM 11:18

COUNTY OF ERIE

JEREMY C. TOTH
COUNTY ATTORNEY

KRISTEN M. WALDER
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

MEMORANDUM

JCT/dld

TO: Olivia Owens, Clerk, Erie County Legislature
FROM: Jeremy C. Toth, Erie County Attorney
DATE: January 8, 2025
RE: Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County

Ms. Owens:

In accordance with the Resolution passed by the Erie County Legislature on June 25, 1987 (Int. 13-14), attached please find three (3) new claims brought against the County of Erie. The claims are as follows:

Claim Name

1. Willie Ellis/Estate of James Ellis v. County of Erie, et al.
2. Christa Cutrona v. Timothy Howard, et al.; and
3. Stephen Kyser v. County of Erie.

JCT:dld
Attachments



COUNTY OF ERIE

JEREMY C. TOTH
COUNTY ATTORNEY

KRISTEN M. WALDER
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

December 5, 2024

Ms. Olivia Owens, Clerk
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Ms. Owens:

In compliance with the Resolution No. 306 passed by the Erie County Legislature on June 25, 1987, regarding notification of lawsuits and claims filed against the County of Erie, enclosed please find a copy of the following:

File Name:	<i>Ellis, Willie, as Administrator of the Estate of James Ellis, v. County of Erie and John Doe 1 through 20.</i>
Document Received:	Summons and Complaint
Name of Claimant:	Willie Ellis 18 Eggert Road Buffalo, New York 14215
Claimant's attorney:	Melissa D. Wischerath, Esq. Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria LLP 42 Delaware Avenue, Suite 120 Buffalo, New York 14202-3924

Should you have any questions, please call.

Very truly yours,

JEREMY C. TOTH
Erie County Attorney

JCT:dld
Enc.

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF ERIE

WILLIE ELLIS, as Administrator of the
Estate of JAMES ELLIS, Deceased,
18 Eggert Rd.,
Buffalo, NY 14215,

Plaintiff,

This paper received at the
Erie County Attorney's Office
from John MacCarrick on
the 3rd day of December, 2024
at 2:06 a.m. / 03
Jerry A. [Signature]
Erie County, New York

SUMMONS

vs.

Index No.:

ERIE COUNTY,
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

JOHN DOE 1 through 20 (said Erie County supervisor(s) and/or
Erie County Sheriff Department supervisor(s) or employee(s) or staff on
Duty involved in the incident on November 30, 2021 and/or
underlying claims),

Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within TWENTY (20) DAYS after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within THIRTY (30) DAYS after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

The basis of venue is plaintiff's residence which is located in Erie County, New York.

DATED: Buffalo, New York
November 26, 2024

LIPSITZ GREEN SCIME CAMBRIA LLP

By: /s/ Melissa D. Wischerath
MELISSA D. WISCHERATH, ESQ.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
42 Delaware Avenue, Suite 120
Buffalo, New York 14202-3924
(716) 849-1333

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF ERIE

WILLIE ELLIS as Administrator of
of the Estate of JAMES A. ELLIS,
Deceased,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

vs.

Index No.

ERIE COUNTY,
JOHN DOE 1 through 20 (said Erie County supervisor(s) and/or
Erie County Sheriff Department supervisor(s) or employee(s) or staff on
Duty involved in the incident on November 30, 2021 and/or
underlying claims),

Defendants.

These elementary principles establish the government's obligation to provide medical care for those whom it is punishing by incarceration. An inmate must rely on prison authorities to treat his medical needs; if the authorities fail to do so, those needs will not be met. In the worst cases, such a failure may actually produce physical 'torture or a lingering death...'

Estelle v Gamble, 429 US 97, 103, (U.S. 1976).

Plaintiff, by and through his attorney, Melissa D. Wischerath of LIPSITZ GREEN SCIME CAMBRIA, LLP, hereby brings this Complaint and Jury Demand and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Erie County, Former Erie County Sheriff Howard, and current Erie County Sheriff Garcia, chose — for nearly two decades — to violate the constitutional rights of the people in their custody.¹

2. Though under a legal duty to provide adequate medical care for those in his custody, Sheriff Garcia has publicly admitted “We’re set up to fail, We don’t have the means to give individuals that come through the doors adequate medical help ...” See, “Why Do People Keep Dying in Erie County’s Jails?” available at <https://newrepublic.com/article/171009/erie-county-sheriff-garcia-howard> last accessed on June 9, 2023.

3. Erie County, has knowingly and recklessly denied medical care to the men and women in the Erie County Holding Center (EHC) for years, causing numerous investigations and deaths.²

4. In February of 2018, the New York State Commission of Correction, published “THE WORST OFFENDERS REPORT: THE MOST PROBLEMATIC LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES OF NEW YORK STATE.”³

¹ See e.g., September 2009 US Department of Justice lawsuit against Erie County and Erie County Sheriff Timothy Howard available at <https://www.justice.gov/archive/opa/documents/erie-complaint.pdf>; US Department of Justice December 2014 Settlement With the County of Erie, New York to Prevent Disability Discrimination at the Erie County Jail available at <https://www.justice.gov/file/189161/download> last accessed on June 9, 2023; March 2021 lawsuit filed by Attorney General James on behalf of the New York State Commission of Correction (SCOC) against Erie County and Erie County Sheriff Timothy Howard available at https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021.03.17_opening_papers_binder.pdf last accessed on August 7, 2024.

² Id. The investigations, reports, and decrees are hereby incorporated by referenced as is more fully set forth herein.

³ <https://scoc.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/problematic-jails-report-2-2018.pdf> last accessed on August 7, 2024.

5. After years of review, the Commission identified the ECHC as one of the top five worst offenders for violating state and federal laws, explaining “the five local jails that are deemed the ‘worst offenders’ for being in violation of state law. These facilities pose an ongoing risk to the health and safety of staff and inmates and, in instances, impose cruel and inhumane treatment of detainees in violation of their Constitutional rights.” At the time of the 2018 report, the NYS Commission had four open inmate mortality investigations at the Erie County Holding Center from 2012-2018 involving: inadequate medical and mental health care; minimum standards violations; and excessive use of force against detainees experiencing a medical and/or mental health crisis in the jail.⁴

6. For the past 20 years, a detainee in the Holding Center in downtown Buffalo or the Erie County Correctional Facility in Alden died, on average, every four and a half months.⁵

7. Despite the state and constitutional mandates to provide detainees with adequate medical care and the staggering death rate, ECHC knowingly and recklessly lacks the means to give individuals that come through its doors adequate medical help.

8. Since at least 2012, following the horrific and tragic death of Richard Metcalf, the Sheriff failed to provide its deputies with proper policy guidance and training on how to properly observe and attend to the medical needs of detainees subjected to prone restraint.

FACTS

9. On November 30, 2021, James Ellis died of Complications of Metastatic Carcinoma of probable gastrointestinal primary while in the custody of the Erie County Sheriff at the Erie County Holding Center. He was 58-years-old.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Jail deaths substantially higher than reported available at <https://www.investigativepost.org/2024/09/10/erie-county-jail-deaths/> last accessed on November 26, 2024.

10. 27 months after the death of James Ellis, on March 27, 2024, the Medical Review Board issued their findings regarding his death. “Although his death may not have been preventable, the Board did find that there were failures by the medical providers to recognize clinical indicators of serious disease process during Ellis’ incarceration and to address his chronic medical complaints.” The Medical Review Board’s report for James Ellis is available here at https://scoc.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/04/ellis-james-erie-hc_redacted.pdf last accessed on November 26, 2024.

11. As the Medical Review Board documented in its findings, Ellis had persistent gastrointestinal symptoms over the course of three weeks that could have been indicative of a more serious disease process. Id.

12. Although it was warranted, no medical provider nor employee of the County referred him to a physician for a gastroenterology consultation. Instead he continued to languish and vomit. Id.

13. The Medical Review opined that there was a failure by medical staff to properly assess, failure to notify and consult with a physician and a grossly missed diagnosis. Additionally, the Medical Review Board questioned the credibility of the medical staffs' findings that Ellis clear lung sounds at both sick call encounters on 11/28/21 and 11/29/21 as the gross anatomic findings at autopsy revealed that Ellis had edematous lungs (right 1560 g / left 1260 g) with bronchopneumonia and a necrotic abscess of the right lung indicating possibly weeks of developing infection. The Medical Review Board opined that the cited failures collectively indicated inadequate supervision of the medical staff and health services delivery.

14. A response to the preliminary report was received by the Commission on January 29, 2024. The Medical Review Board stated, “[t]he quality care issues identified by the Medical

Review Board were not specifically addressed in the response. The Medical Review Board remains affirmed in their findings and the identified issues in this case. Id.

15. The County and/or employee(s) or staff on Duty involved in the care and treatment for Mr. Ellis during his incarceration and/or underlying claims) willful and deliberate indifference to James Ellis' serious medical needs, directly led to his death.

16. Upon information and belief, the County and/or employee(s) or staff on Duty involved in the care and treatment for Mr. Ellis during his incarceration and/or underlying claims) failed to: sufficiently monitor or treat, or supervise and/or train, those responsible for him; adequately screen or supervise and/or train, those responsible for screening him for medical conditions; failed to timely or adequately respond to requests for medical care or supervise and/or train, those responsible for him; and denied or delayed for excessive periods the provision of necessary chronic and specialty care, including transport to a hospital or supervise and/or train, those responsible for him.

17. The defendants failure to provide adequate medical care resulted in the death of James Ellis.

18. The County has been aware of the constitutionally and legally inadequate care and conditions in its jails for years, thereby possessing actual and constructive notice of these ongoing and recurring violations.

19. Erie County is the appointing authority for the delivery of jail incarcerated individual health services pursuant to Correction Law section 501 for the ECHC.

PARTIES

20. Plaintiff, at all times hereinafter mentioned was and still is a resident of the City of Buffalo located within the County of Erie and the State of New York.

21. On or about the 22nd day of November, 2024, plaintiff, Willie Ellis, was appointed temporary administrator of the Estate of James A. Ellis, pursuant to an Order of the Surrogate's Court of Erie County, and Temporary Letters Testamentary of the Estate of James A. Ellis were served on the plaintiff, and he is duly qualified and thereafter acted and is still acting as such administrator.

22. Defendant, ERIE COUNTY (the "County") is a governmental subdivision created under the laws of the State of New York. The County is charged by the laws of the State of New York with authority to maintain the Erie County Holding Center (EHC). The Erie County Holding Center in Buffalo, New York is a pretrial facility owned by Erie County; many people held there are not convicted of a crime.

23. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant, JOHN DOE 1 through 20, were and still are residents of the County of Erie and the State of New York. He/she/they are sued in his/her/their official capacities.

24. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendants, JOHN DOE 1 through 20, were hired and/or employed by defendants, Erie County and/or the Erie County Sheriff, and were acting within their authority as an Erie County Deputy Sheriff(s) and/or officer(s) and/or staff and acting under color of state law.

25. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant Erie County is responsible for the supervision, administration, policy, practices, procedures, and customs of the Erie County medical providers, and is responsible for the hiring, training, discipline, and control of the EHC staff.

26. Upon information and belief, the County, owned, maintained, operated, managed, directed, controlled, and staffed the Erie County Holding Center, located at 40 Delaware Avenue

within the City of Buffalo, County of Erie, and State of New York, and is responsible for the care and custody of all detainees at said facility.

27. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant County employed and controlled the individuals responsible for the hiring, training, and discipline deputies and staff, and also created, instituted, and oversaw enforcing the policies, practice, and procedures at issue in this action.

28. Defendant, Erie County, was responsible for the hiring, training, supervision, discipline, retention, and promotion of employees of the ECHC staff.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
AGAINST ERIE COUNTY and JOHN DOE 1 through 20**

42 U.S.C. §1983 AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT

(Deliberate Indifferent to Serious Medical Need in Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment)

29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

30. James Ellis, while under the care, custody and control of Erie County, and JOHN DOE 1 through 20, at the ECHC, was caused to suffer serious injuries, due to their failure to ensure for and/or provide timely and proper medical treatment to him; in their failure to provide medications and proper medical treatment that he required; the denial of treatment by defendants amounts to deliberate indifference to a serious medical need, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendments' prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment and 42 U.S.C. § 1983; in their failure and refusal to make a reasonable accommodation by providing Mr. Ellis with access to proper treatment and medications, rather than prolonged illness, thereby discriminating against him on the basis of disability, even though accommodation would in no way alter the nature of

the healthcare program, and unconstitutionally deprived him of his liberty and he was otherwise tortuously and maliciously harmed by the actions of the defendants, all in violation of Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 1983 et. seq. and the AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. Said negligent and improper delay in medical treatment led to the untimely and wrongful death of James Ellis on or around November 30, 2021.

31. Mr. Ellis' repeated complaints of gastrointestinal distress over a three-week period; complaints of chest pain and unstable vital signs; 15 lbs. weight loss and repeated vomiting constituted a serious medical need.

32. Upon information and belief, defendant Erie County, and JOHN DOE 1 through 20 failed to detect his acute illness and significant disease during his 9 weeks of incarceration even though the medical standard of care warrants it.

33. Erie County, and JOHN DOE 1 through 20 knew of and disregarded or should have known of the excessive risk of harm to James Ellis if he was not provided prompt and appropriate medical treatment for his complaints.

34. The failure to provide and/or denial of access to the standard of care caused James Ellis physical and psychological suffering and injuries resulting in death.

35. The denial of treatment constitutes a deliberate indifference to a serious medical need, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and 42 U.S.C. §1983.

36. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has sustained general and special damages in an amount that exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**AGAINST ERIE COUNTY****(Monell Claim-Municipal Liability Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1983)**

37. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the above paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

38. The County knew or should have known that their supervisory policy as related to fitness of the medical providers in its jails was deficient.

39. Defendant, Erie County established, condoned, ratified, and/or encouraged customs, policies, patterns, and practices that directly and proximately caused the deprivation of the civil and constitutional rights of Plaintiff's decedent James Ellis, and the damages and injuries described herein. It did so with deliberate indifference to the rights of the detainee. These written and unwritten policies, customs, patterns, and practices included:

- i. Failing to adequately staff their department with sufficient physicians, staff, and employees (including health care workers), for welfare checks, medical assessment, monitoring, and medical treatment and transport.
- ii. Failing to train, supervise and discipline physicians, staff, and employees at the ECHC responsible for welfare checks, medical assessment, monitoring, and medical treatment.
- iii. Failing to utilize qualitative benchmarks to assess the quality of medical care ECHC provides to its detainees.
- iv. Failing to take steps to ensure that deputies, staff, and employees at the ECHC do not falsify welfare checks and/or medical assessments and logs.
- v. Failing to adequately staff their department with sufficient physicians, staff, and employees (including health care workers), for detainees with serious

physical injuries suffered before presenting to defendant Erie County and its employees, agents and/or representatives.

- vi. Failing to have in place, or failing to follow, a policy or procedure to prevent physicians and/or nurses from denying detainees access to necessary medical treatment.
- vii. Failing to properly screen, during the booking process, and supervise thereafter, prisoner, inmate, and/or detainee for serious chronic and acute medical conditions.
- viii. Failing and omitting to properly and in a timely manner administer, provide and/or ensure for adequate medical treatment, including transport, assessments, monitoring, examinations, and medications.
- ix. Failing to properly and in a timely manner respond to medical complaints, symptoms, and requests for treatment.
- x. Deliberately, purposefully, and knowingly denying detainees access to necessary medical treatment for acute and/or chronic medical conditions, such as cancer.
- xi. Failing to properly and adequately train, supervise, instruct their employees, staff and/or officers about the proper and timely medical treatment of detainees; and in recognizing the signs and symptoms of acute disease and chronic disease.
- xii. Failing to immediately seek a physician referral and/or hospital treatment for detainees in need of it.
- xiii. Failing to review or implement findings of the NYS Commission of Correction pursuant to Correction Law section 501.

40. The County knew or should have known that the custom, policy, or practice of ignoring acute medical conditions was constitutionally infirm because of the known risks and death attributable to it, and because it delayed medical aid to those in need of it.

41. The County knew or should have known of these ongoing customs, policies, and practices.

42. Despite having actual or constructive knowledge of these customs, policies, and practices, the County exhibited deliberate indifference to these ongoing policies, customs, and practices.

43. A reasonable supervisor would conclude that the County's official policy to effectively not supervise its physicians and medical staff, and its custom, policy, or practice of ignore acute symptoms, would foreseeably result, by deliberate indifference, in the injuries and/or deaths of detainees such as Mr. Ellis (i.e., an individual with clearly-established medical needs).

44. The above-described actions violated Mr. Ellis' clearly-established constitutional rights under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

45. The particular injuries suffered by Ellis and his estate are the obvious consequence of the failure to supervise and its unconstitutional customs.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
AGAINST ERIE COUNTY**

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Unlawful Discrimination Against Qualified Individuals with Disabilities)

46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the above

paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

47. Erie County Holding Center (“ECHC”), which is owned and/or operated by defendant, the County, is a public facility subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

48. Cancer is a “disability” under the ADA. See 42 U.S.C. §12102 and 12131(2); 28 C.F.R. §35.108.

49. The ADA applies to individuals, such as James Ellis, who require or are receiving treatment for cancer.

50. Defendants denied James Ellis, the benefit of medical programs through the Erie County Holding Center on the basis of his disability.

51. Defendants refused to and/or failed to make a reasonable accommodation to Mr. Ellis, by providing him with a physician consultation, thereby discriminating against him on the basis of disability, even though accommodation would in no way alter the nature of the healthcare program.

52. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has sustained general and special damages in an amount that exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff, respectfully requests that this Court:

- a. Exercise jurisdiction over plaintiff’s claims and grant him a jury trial;
- b. Award plaintiff economic and non-economic damages, in an amount to be ascertained according to proof, and interest on said sums from the date of Judgment;

- c. Award plaintiff punitive damages against the individual (non-municipal) defendants in an amount sufficient to punish them and deter others from similar conduct;
- d. Award plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 1988; and
- e. Grant plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court deems just and appropriate, including, declaratory and injunctive relief.

DATED: Buffalo, New York

November 26, 2024

LIPSITZ GREEN SCIME CAMBRIA LLP

By: /s/ Melissa D. Wischerath
MELISSA D. WISCHERATH, ESQ.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
42 Delaware Avenue, Suite 120
Buffalo, New York 14202-3924
(716) 849-1333

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF ERIE

WILLIE ELLIS, as Administrator of
the Estate of JAMES ELLIS, Deceased,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Index No. 817543/2024

ERIE COUNTY,
JOHN DOE 1 through 20 (said Erie County supervisor(s) and/or
Erie County Sheriff Department supervisor(s) or employee(s) or
staff on Duty involved in the incident on November 30, 2021 and/or
underlying claims),

Defendants.

**NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION
SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the matter captioned above, which has been commenced by filing of the accompanying documents with the County Clerk, is subject to mandatory electronic filing pursuant to Section 202.5-bb of the Uniform Rules for the Trial Courts. This notice is being served as required by Subdivision (b)(3) of that Section.

The New York State Courts Electronic Filing System ("NYSCEF") is designed for the electronic filing of documents with the County Clerk and the court and for the electronic service of those documents, court documents, and court notices upon counsel and self-represented parties. Counsel and/or parties who do not notify the court of a claimed exemption (see below) as required by Section 202.5-bb(e) must immediately record their representation within the e-filed matter on the Consent page in NYSCEF. Failure to do so may result in an inability to receive electronic notice of document filings.

Exemptions from mandatory e-filing are limited to: (1) attorneys who certify in good faith that they lack the computer equipment and (along with all employees) the requisite knowledge to comply; and (2) self-represented parties who choose not to participate in e-filing. For additional information about electronic filing, including access to Section 202.5-bb, consult the NYSCEF website at www.nycourts.gov/efile, or contact the NYSCEF Resource Center (at 646-386-3033 or efile@courts.state.ny.us).

Dated: December 2, 2024

LIPSITZ GREEN SCIME CAMBRIA, LLP

s/ Melissa Wischerath

By: Melissa D. Wischerath, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
42 Delaware Avenue, Suite 120
Buffalo, NY 14202
Tel: 716-849-1333

TO:

ERIE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
Edward A. Rath County Office Building
95 Franklin Street, Rm 1634
Buffalo, New York, 14202



COUNTY OF ERIE

JEREMY C. TOTH
COUNTY ATTORNEY

KRISTEN M. WALDER
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

December 12, 2024

Ms. Olivia Owens, Clerk
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Ms. Owens:

In compliance with the Resolution No. 306 passed by the Erie County Legislature on June 25, 1987, regarding notification of lawsuits and claims filed against the County of Erie, enclosed please find a copy of the following:

File Name:	<i>Cutrona, Christa v. Timothy Howard, et al.</i>
Document Received:	Summons and Complaint
Name of Claimant:	Christa Cutrona
Claimant's attorney:	Anna Marie Richmond, Esq. 2500 Rand Building 14 Lafayette Square Buffalo, New York 14203-1295

Should you have any questions, please call.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Toth", is written over a circular embossed seal.

JEREMY C. TOTH
Erie County Attorney

JCT:dld
Enc.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CHRISTA CUTRONA,
Plaintiff,

vs.

COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded

TIMOTHY HOWARD, JOHN GARCIA
JOHN GREENAN, WILLIAM J. COOLEY
SANDRA AMOIA, THOMAS DIINA,
MICHAEL PHILLIPS, and JAMES BALYS,
Defendants

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a complaint for violation of Plaintiff's First Amendment right to freedom of speech brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and discrimination on the basis of gender in violation of the New York State Human Rights Law.

The lawsuit addresses deliberate disregard of their legal obligations to the incarcerated individuals committed to their care by high-ranking officials of the Erie County Sheriff's Department in two successive administrations, the efforts of Plaintiff Christa Cutrona, a Registered Nurse, to protect the incarcerated persons, and the steps taken by the Defendants to silence and discredit that nurse, which include retaliation, and criminal prosecution.

Plaintiff Cutrona's state law claims address a continuing pattern of discrimination in employment on the basis of gender beginning in March of 2021. This lawsuit seeks damages and declaratory and injunctive relief.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by 28 USC §§ 1331 and 1343; jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims is conferred upon the Court by 28 USC §§ 1367.
3. All conditions precedent to the filing of suit have been performed or have occurred.
4. Venue is properly laid in the Western District of New York pursuant to 28 USC § 1391(b) because the Defendants are located in the Western District of New York, and because the events giving rise to the Complaint occurred in the Western District of New York.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff, Christa Cutrona is a former employee of the County of Erie. As is set forth in detail *below*, between 2012 and May of 2015, Plaintiff, Christa Cutrona was Director of Nursing; from May of 2015 until 2016 she was the Director of the Erie County Department of Health's Correctional Health Division; from 2016 until December of 2021, she was the Director of the Correctional Health Division within the Sheriff's Department; and from January of 2022 until July of 2022, she was Director of Correctional Health within the Jail Management Division of the Erie County Sheriff's Department.
6. Defendant Timothy Howard was the Sheriff of Erie County from the date of Plaintiff's hire until January 1, 2022. He is sued in his personal and official capacities.
7. Defendant John Garcia was the Sheriff of Erie County January 1, 2022 until the present. He is sued in his personal and official capacities.

8. Defendant John Greenan was Chief of Administration of the Erie County Sheriff's Department from 2014 until 2020, and Under Sheriff of Erie County from 2020 until December 31, 2021. He is sued in his personal and official capacities.

9. Defendant William J. Cooley was Under Sheriff of Erie County from January 1, 2022 until the present. He is sued in his personal and official capacities.

10. Defendant Sandra Amoia was First Deputy Superintendent for Compliance of the Jail Management Division of the Erie County Sheriff's Department from January 1, 2022 until the present. She is sued in her personal and official capacities.

11. Defendant Thomas Diina was Superintendent of the Jail Management Division of the Erie County Sheriff's Department from the date of Plaintiff's hire until December 31, 2021. He is sued in his personal and official capacities

12. Defendant Michael Phillips was Superintendent of the Jail Management Division of the Erie County Sheriff's Department from January 1, 2022 until the present. He is sued in his personal and official capacities.

13. At all times relevant to this matter Defendant James Balys held the rank of captain within the Jail Management Division. He was First Deputy of Compliance within the Correctional Health Division of the Erie County Sheriff's Department from July of 2021 to January of 2022. In January 2022 Defendant Balys was named Chief of Compliance in the Jail Management Division. He is sued in his personal and official capacities.

BACKGROUND: Federal Litigation and Consent Decree

14. On September 30, 2009, the United States of America, represented by the US Department of Justice ("USDoJ"), filed a complaint against Erie County, New York, alleging

that certain conditions at the Erie County Holding Center (EHC) and the Erie County Correctional Facility (ECCF) violated the constitutional rights of persons confined in EHC and ECCF. The complaint was assigned docket number 09-cv-849 and assigned to the Honorable William M. Skretny. *See* 09-cv-849-WMS-JJM, Item No.1.

15. On August 18, 2011, the parties filed a Stipulated Order of Dismissal, *See* 09-cv-849-WMS-JJM, Item No. 225-1, which was “so Ordered” by Judge Skretny on August 26, 2011. *See* 09-cv-849-WMS-JJM, Item NO. 227.

16. Pursuant to that Stipulation and Order, the County of Erie agreed to *inter alia*:
- a. Continue to develop and implement policies and procedures to provide prisoners with a safe and secure environment and continue to take all reasonable steps to protect them from harm;
 - b. Provide mental health care pursuant to stipulated provisions relating to suicide prevention, screening, referrals to outside providers and specific provisions for mentally ill prisoners;
 - c. Ensure that clinical decisions and actions regarding health care provided to inmates are the sole responsibility of qualified health professionals;
 - d. Ensure inmates’ medical privacy and confidentiality;
 - e. Improve medical record keeping;
 - f. Ensure that all medications are appropriately prescribed, stored, controlled, dispensed and administered;
 - g. Ensure that inmates have access to care to meet their serious medical needs, including, but not limited to, emergency care, follow-up care, chronic disease care, dental care, and pre-natal care. *Id.*

17. Pursuant to the Stipulated Order of Dismissal, the County agreed to create a Correctional Health Division within the Erie County Department of Health that was charged with the responsibility of implementing the medical-related aspects of the Order of Dismissal.

18. The Stipulated Order of Dismissal included a provision that the agreement would not terminate until after the County had achieved and maintained substantial compliance with all the provisions of the Stipulated order for eighteen consecutive months.

19. The Jail Management Division achieved substantial compliance in 2013 or 2014; the Correctional Health Division reached sustained compliance in October of 2019; on information and belief, the Forensic Mental Health Division reached substantial compliance in 2021.

20. On June 9, 2023 the parties jointly moved to terminate the stipulated Order of Dismissal and for the Court to enter Judgment of Dismissal. Item No. 335.

21. The Court entered a Final Order of Dismissal on June 13, 2023. Item No. 336.

BACKGROUND: Missions of the Jail Management and Correctional Health Divisions

22. The Erie County Sheriff's Department has numerous divisions, one of which is the Jail Management Division, which operates the Erie County Holding Center ("ECHC") and the Erie County Correctional Facility ("ECCF").

23. The Correctional Health Division was identified as a separate Division of the Erie County Sheriff, along with the Division of Public Services and the Jail Management Division in the 2021 and 2024 Erie County Budgets.

24. The Mission Statement of the Jail Management Division set forth in the Erie County Annual Budget for 2021 includes: “maintaining safe, secure and humane detention and correctional facilities” and “Enforce all laws, ordinances rules and regulations.”

25. The top priority of the Jail Management Division for 2021 set forth in the Budget is: “Maintain a safe and secure environment.”

26. The Mission Statement of the Correctional Health Division set forth in the Erie County Annual Budget for 2021 includes: “to pursue and establish the highest ideals and ethical standards in the provision of health services to those who are incarcerated.”

STATEMENT OF FACTS

27. Pursuant to the Stipulated Order, in 09-cv-849, Plaintiff, Christa Cutrona was hired as the Director of Nursing, Correctional Health Division, under the supervision of the Erie County Department of Health in 2012.

28. At the time of Plaintiff’s hire, Mark Wipperman was Under Sheriff, Michael Reardon was First Deputy Superintendent/Compliance Officer, and Thomas Diina was Superintendent of the Jail Management Division.

29. The First Deputy Superintendent/Compliance Officer position was within the Jail Management Division of the Erie County Sheriff’s Department and reported directly to the Under Sheriff.

30. In 2014, Defendant John Greenan was appointed Chief of Administration of the Erie County Sheriff’s Department.

31. In May of 2015, Plaintiff Cutrona was promoted to Director of the Correctional Health Division.

32. The Director of the Correctional Health Division was a Civil Service position with a formal job description approved by the Erie County Legislature, and a line item in the Sheriff's Department budget.

33. Plaintiff's duties set forth in the job description for Director of Correctional Health Services included, but were not limited to:

- a. Direction and delivery of all health services and related services to inmates housed in the Erie County Youth Detention Facility, (ECYDF), Erie County Correctional Facility (ECCF), and Erie County Holding Center (EHC);
- b. Supervision of health service staff;
- c. Direction of use, delivery, ordering, maintenance, storage, control, disposal and recording of medical and pharmaceutical supplies and equipment;
- d. Development of policies and procedures for all aspects of delivery of health care services;
- e. Coordination of the use of public and private health care facilities as required for care of inmates;
- f. Coordination with the Erie County Forensic Mental Health Department;
- g. Preparation of the yearly budget for the Division of Correctional Health Services; and
- h. Preparation of statistical documentation and the year-end report for the Correctional Health Division.

34. In 2016, the Division of Correctional Health was relocated from the Erie County Department of Health to the Erie County Sheriff's Department, and established as a Division of the Sheriff's Department parallel to the Jail Management Division.

35. As Director of the Correctional Health Division, Plaintiff reported directly to the Erie County Commissioner of Health until 2016, and to the Under Sheriff from January 1, 2016 to January of 2022.

36. In 2017, the Compliance Officer position was placed in the Correctional Health Division.

37. The relocation of the Correctional Health Division was approved by the Erie County Legislature and the USDoJ.

38. The USDoJ conditioned its approval of the relocation of the Correctional Health Division upon the Correctional Health Division remaining an independent Division of the Sheriff's Department.

39. Upon the Correctional Health Division's relocation to the Sheriff's Department, Plaintiff was placed on the Sheriff Command staff.

40. Plaintiff was the only woman on the Sheriff Command staff until December of 2021.

41. Plaintiff's job description and duties did not change when her position was relocated from the Department of Health to the Sheriff's Department.

42. As part of her regular duties, Plaintiff Cutrona provided frequent reports to the Under Sheriff on quality data, including, but not limited to monthly summaries.

43. The First Deputy Superintendent/Compliance Officer utilized information contained in Plaintiff's reports to the Under Sheriff to prepare reports for submission to the US DoJ, as mandated by the Stipulation and Order in 09-cv-849.

44. In August of 2020, Defendant John Greenan was appointed Under Sheriff.

45. In January of 2021 Defendant Howard announced that he would not seek re-election as Erie County Sheriff.

46. From May of 2015 until March of 2021, Plaintiff worked closely with the First Deputy Superintendent/Compliance Officer to implement the provisions of the Stipulation of Dismissal in 09-cv-849.

47. In March of 2021 Michael Reardon was removed from the position First Deputy Superintendent/Compliance Officer, and transferred to the Courts Division of the Sheriff's Department.

48. Upon Mr. Reardon's reassignment, Defendant Greenan assumed responsibility for compliance duties, in addition to Greenan's other duties.

49. As the Director of the Correctional Health Division, Plaintiff was the direct advocate to the Under Sheriff and Jail Management Division regarding concerns related to access to medical care and medical safety.

50. On or about March 31, 2021, Plaintiff sent a fourteen-page letter to Defendant Timothy Howard, detailing the accomplishments of the Correctional Health Division from 2015 to date, and advising Defendant Howard that the Correctional Health Division's goals and accomplishments were jeopardized by the removal of Reardon from his Compliance Officer position.

51. Plaintiff's duties included bringing violations of policy and procedure, policy edits, and concerns regarding incidents that had occurred in the jails to Defendant Diina's attention.

52. Until March of 2021, Plaintiff communicated with Defendant Diina through Mr. Reardon.

53. After Mr. Reardon was removed from the position of First Deputy Superintendent/Compliance Officer, there was no longer a liaison between the Correctional Health Division and the Jail Management Division, and Plaintiff was required to interact directly with Jail Superintendent Defendant Thomas Diina.

54. As of March 2021, Plaintiff was the only woman holding a command-level position in the Sheriff's Department.

55. Defendant Diina was hostile to Plaintiff as a woman in a position of authority and subjected her to verbal abuse and bullying.

56. Defendant Diina ignored communications from Plaintiff or responded to her requests in a hostile and aggressive manner.

57. When Defendant Diina did respond to Plaintiff's emails and to emails from other women within the Correctional Health Division, Diina's emails attempted intimidation and offensiveness.

58. Defendant Diina was confrontational in his dealings with Plaintiff and attempted to bully her.

59. Defendant Diina refused to participate in inter-departmental meetings with Plaintiff, and excluded Plaintiff from meetings to discuss challenges and concerns identified by the Correctional Health Division.

60. Defendant Diina refused to include Plaintiff in discussions of amendments to Jail policies that had implications for correctional health, including policies governing the use of OC spray (pepper spray), camera recording of inmates, and notification to the Correctional Health Division of inmates' placement on administrative segregation.

61. As one example of Defendant Diina's actions, in the middle of March of 2021, ECHC was on lockdown, and security staff would not permit Correctional Health Division nurses to administer prescribed medications to inmates.

62. During the latter part of March 2021, one inmate in ECHC died, and another inmate was found unresponsive – the second inmate survived after transport to the hospital.

63. Plaintiff sent emails to Defendant Diina expressing concern about the denial of medical care to inmates, and her staff's inability to obtain access to inmates during the lockdown.

64. Defendant Diina did not respond.

65. Defendant Diina refused to respond to Plaintiff's request for information about the Jail Management Division's follow-up to a Prison Rape Elimination Act ("PREA" 34 USC § 3401, et seq.) complaint in mid-April of 2021.

66. Beginning in the summer of 2021, Defendant Diina invited a male contract employee of the Correctional Health Division, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kevin McGee to meetings in place of, or in addition to, Plaintiff.

67. Dr. McGee had been hired to oversee the medical practice within the ECCF and ECHC; in that capacity he reported to Plaintiff.

68. In late May 2021, Plaintiff informed Defendant Greenan that Defendant Diina was harassing her because she was a woman.

69. Defendant Greenan encouraged Plaintiff to file a complaint with the County's Equal Employment Opportunity ("EEO") office.

70. Plaintiff filed an EEO complaint on or about June 3, 2021.

71. Plaintiff's EEO complaint was dismissed as unfounded by the County EEO office on or about June 18, 2021.

72. In May of 2021 there was an inmate disturbance at ECCF.

73. In June of 2021, Plaintiff was contacted directly by a medical liaison from the New York State Commission of Corrections ("SCOC") and asked whether the Correctional Health Division had received complaints relating to the disturbance at ECHC in May.

74. Plaintiff reviewed the medical and forensic mental health records for the relevant period, and found numerous complaints of beatings by corrections staff, denial of food for several days, denial of bedding, placement in cells fouled with feces and urine, denial of showers and changes of clothing for up to a week, and other constitutional and civil rights violations.

75. Plaintiff reported her findings to the SCOC liaison.

76. At a command meeting with Defendant Greenan, Plaintiff informed Greenan that she had been contacted by the SCOC, and had reported her findings.

77. Defendant Greenan was infuriated that Plaintiff had communicated directly with the SCOC, and told her that the Jail Management Division had taken care of the issues.

78. Defendant Greenan told Plaintiff to "shut [her] mouth."

79. Thereafter, Defendant Greenan frequently ignored Plaintiff's medically supported recommendations and reports.

80. On or about June 2, 2021, Defendant Greenan advised Plaintiff that he was considering assigning Captain James Balys to the Compliance Officer position.

81. Defendant Balys lacked the skills and experience required for the position.

82. Plaintiff advised Defendant Greenan that she believed Defendant Balys was not qualified for the position due to Balys' lack of knowledge of medical issues and lack of administrative experience.

83. On or about June 17, 2021, Defendant Greenan advised Plaintiff that the Sheriff was appointing Defendant Balys as Compliance Officer.

84. After Defendant Balys' appointment, Defendant Greenan modified the skills and experience requirements for the Compliance Officer position to match Defendant Balys' qualifications.

85. After Defendant Balys' appointment as Compliance Officer and the EEO Office's dismissal of Plaintiff's complaint, Defendant Diina discontinued communicating directly with Plaintiff.

86. Instead, Defendant Diina communicated with Plaintiff primarily through Defendant Balys.

87. Defendant Balys continued to treat Plaintiff in the same demeaning and hostile fashion as Defendant Diina had done.

88. On or about June 25, 2025, Plaintiff met with Defendant Balys, and advised him that her goal was to help him succeed.

89. On or about June 28, 2021, Plaintiff emailed Defendant Balys copies of policies, documents, manuals, etc., relevant and necessary to the performance of the Compliance Officer position.

90. Beginning in July 2021, Defendant Greenan began including Dr. McGee, a male contract employee who reported to Plaintiff, to regular command staff meetings.

91. Defendants Greenan and Balys excluded Plaintiff from the discussions at the meetings, instead addressing comments and questions to Dr. McGee.

92. On or about July 7, 2021, at a meeting with Defendants Balys and Greenan, Plaintiff advised that she had noticed a pattern of inmates reporting constitutional and civil rights violations (including excessive use of force, and cruel and unusual punishment) to medical staff (who were documenting those reports in the medical records), but that there were no corresponding formal investigations of the complaints being undertaken by the Professional Standards Division.

93. At the same meeting Plaintiff advised Defendants Greenan and Balys of the need to review uses of OC spray (pepper spray), the restraint chair, and Prison Rape Elimination Act ("PREA" 34 USC § 3401, et seq.) reporting and investigation.

94. Defendants Greenan and Balys ignored Plaintiff's recommendations.

95. In August of 2021, Plaintiff emailed Defendants Greenan and Balys regarding inmates arriving for medical care for injuries, without there being corresponding Unusual Incident reports prepared by the Jail Management Division.

96. From July of 2021 through September 2021, Plaintiff advised Defendant Balys and Defendant Greenan in writing and in face-to-face meetings of Plaintiff's concerns relating to inmate health, including, but not limited to

- a. Shortage of staff (including but not limited to Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses) due to the elimination of 23 positions from the Correctional Health Division;
- b. Significant increase in the number of inmate-on-inmate assaults and hospitalizations for injuries sustained during the incidents;

- c. Increased hospitalizations due to ingestion of foreign bodies and contraband;
- d. Failure to follow legally mandated protocols for providing medical care in response to PREA complaints;
- e. Failure to investigate inmate complaints to medical staff of civil rights violations by security staff;
- f. Delays in receiving necessary medical supplies; and
- g. Failure to comply with guidelines governing provision of mental health care.

97. Defendants Greenan and Balys did not address Plaintiff's concerns.

98. On or about October 6, 2021 Plaintiff emailed Defendant Greenan advising him that despite significant reductions in the total jail population since 2019, inmate visits to outside emergency rooms had doubled since the prior year; Plaintiff provided detailed data in support of that assessment.

99. Defendants Greenan did not address Plaintiff's concerns.

100. From October 2021 through the end of December 2021, Defendants Greenan, Diina, and Balys continued to exclude Plaintiff from the decision making process and to ignore her efforts to communicate and work with them regarding areas within the scope of Plaintiff's responsibilities.

101. In mid-October of 2021 Plaintiff contacted an attorney in the Department of Justice ("DoJ") who was involved in the litigation of 09-cv-849 to report violations of the consent decree in that case.

102. Plaintiff explained that she had tried to address the concerns with the relevant County officials without success.

103. Citing her medical oath, Plaintiff described substantial increases in incidents that required medical assessment and intervention, increased inmate injuries, and violations of the Consent Decree in 09-cv-849.

104. Plaintiff followed her text with an email in early November 2021, attaching documentation of her concerns.

105. The DoJ attorney responded that she could not talk directly to Plaintiff about matters relating to 09-cv-849 without the permission and participation of the County's attorneys.

106. In November 2021, Defendant John Garcia was elected Sheriff of Erie County.

107. In November and December of 2021, Plaintiff notified Defendants Greenan and Balys of violations of the Consent Decree and applicable policy with respect to transfers of inmates to outside emergency rooms, Defendant Balys' failure to meet with the Director of Nursing on a daily basis to review daily incidents, failure to comply with the established COVID prevention procedure, and failure of the Jail Management Division to provide shift summary reports to the Correctional Health Division administrative team.

108. In mid-December 2021, Defendant Sheriff Garcia announced his command staff to the news media; Plaintiff was listed as the Director of Correctional Health instead of her Civil Service title which was Director of the Correctional Health Division.

109. On or about December 28, 2021, Plaintiff received an email from Defendant Garcia's Administrative Assistant that listed the chain of command in each Division of the Sheriff's Department for the incoming administration.

110. Plaintiff was listed third in command in the Correctional Health Division, below incoming First Deputy, Defendant Amoia, and below Kevin McGee, MD, the contract employee, who, pursuant to his contract, reported to Plaintiff.

111. Defendant Greenan was replaced as Under Sheriff by Defendant Michael Cooley upon Defendant Garcia taking office.

112. On or about January 9, 2022, Plaintiff emailed Defendants Garcia and Cooley with suggestions for training of staff concerning the requirements of the Consent Decree in 09-cv-849.

113. On or about January 10, 2022, Plaintiff received a response to her January 9, 2022 email from Defendant Phillips directing Plaintiff to follow the chain of command in communicating with the Sheriff, namely Defendant Amoia, himself, and Under-Sheriff Cooley.

114. On or about January 11, 2022 Plaintiff provided the new incoming Sheriff Administrative staff including Defendant Garcia, Defendant Cooley, Defendant, Phillips, Defendant Amoia and Defendant Greenan a bound copy of the USDoJ Stipulated Order of Dismissal, the 2021 Correctional Health Quality Report and a full version of the Correctional Health Transitional Plan for Correctional Health Division.

115. On or about January 12, 2022, Plaintiff emailed Defendant Amoia statistics for 2011-2021 which demonstrated the significant increase in inmate visits to emergency rooms, and other medical concerns.

116. On or about January 13, 2022, Defendant Garcia announced at the Command Staff meeting that Defendant Balys was the Chief of Compliance; Defendant Balys was also a Captain in the Teamster Union.

117. On or about January 19, 2022, Defendant Amoia met with the Correctional Health Division administration and presented an organizational chart, prepared at the direction of Defendant Garcia.

118. The organizational chart referenced in ¶ 117 nominally placed the Correctional Health Division under the Jail Management Division, but effectively eliminated the Correctional Health Division as a separate Division of the Sheriff's Department co-equal with the Jail Management Division.

119. The organizational chart referenced in ¶ 117 listed Plaintiff's position within the Jail Management Division as reporting to Chief of Compliance, James Balys.

120. Plaintiff reached out to her attorney contact in the US DoJ on or about January 3, 2022 and January 27, 2022 to provide statistical data of the increase in reportable incidents, and to bring information about perceived violations of inmates' constitutional and civil rights to the attorney's attention.

121. In January and early February 2022, Plaintiff was excluded from meetings and communications concerning the Correctional Health Division involving both her subordinates within the Correctional Health Division and Defendants Amoia and Balys.

122. On or about February 2, 2022, Defendant Amoia informed Plaintiff that she (Amoia) was now the head of the Correctional Health Division, and that Defendant Balys was Second in Command; Defendant Amoia also informed Plaintiff that the Chain of Command for the Correctional Health Division placed her below Defendants Amoia and Balys, and removed all of Plaintiff's administrative duties.

123. Defendant Amoia further advised Plaintiff that her responsibilities were limited to Billing, Insurance, Budget, Material Management, and Vendors.

124. Plaintiff advised Defendant Amoia that the organization chart and distribution of duties violated the agreement with the USDoJ, the Stipulation of Dismissal of 09-cv-847 and the

Erie County Legislature's actions in creating the Correctional Health Division as a co-equal Division of the Sheriff's Department along with the Jail Management Division.

125. Defendant Amoia stated words to the effect of, "I never want to hear that out of your mouth again. The Sheriff gets what the Sheriff wants."

126. Later that same day, Defendant Balys directed Plaintiff to vacate her office and remove all of her possessions from it, as he would be taking over that office.

127. The staff reorganization described in ¶¶ 122 through 123, and memorialized in the organizational chart referenced in ¶ 117, violated the Consent Decree in 09-cv-849.

128. The staff reorganization described in ¶¶ 122 through 123 also violated Civil Service rules and did not comply with the Erie County budget then in effect.

129. The staff reorganization described in ¶¶ 122 through 123 effected a demotion of Plaintiff to a position with less authority and less prestige.

130. The staff reorganization described in ¶¶ 122 through 123 was a continuation of the discriminatory exclusion of Plaintiff from decision-making and administrative responsibility that had begun in or about March of 2021.

131. On information and belief, the actions of Defendants Garcia, Cooley, Amoia, Phillips and Balys in 2021 were a continuation of the hostile work environment and discriminatory change in the terms and conditions of Plaintiff's employment that had been initiated by Defendants Howard, Greenan, Diina and Balys beginning in March of 2021.

132. Plaintiff contacted the Erie County Attorney, the Erie County Commissioner of Personnel, the Erie County Commissioner of Budget and the US DoJ concerning the staff reorganization.

133. Plaintiff also contacted Defendant Greenan and expressed concern that she had been blackballed, and that medical concerns and procedures were being addressed without her participation.

134. Defendant Greenan responded that he was no longer part of the decision-making process.

135. On information and belief, neither Defendant Amoia nor Defendant Balys have any medical training.

136. On or about February 8, 2022, members of the nursing staff reported to Plaintiff that all of the procedures the Correctional Health Division had established to comply with the Consent Decree and improve the Correctional Health Division were being eliminated by the new administration.

137. On or about February 9, 2022, Plaintiff called off sick from work due to stress arising from the actions of Defendants Garcia, Cooley, Phillips, Amoia and Balys described in ¶¶ 121 to 137 herein.

138. On or about February 14, 2022, Plaintiff was admitted to BryLin Hosp for a nervous breakdown; Plaintiff was diagnosed with major depressive disorder and anxiety

139. Plaintiff was an inpatient at BryLin from February 14, 2022 until February 21, 2022.

140. While Plaintiff was in the hospital, an on-duty Sheriff's deputy came to the hospital and attempted to elicit information from the hospital staff about Plaintiff's condition.

141. BryLin did not provide HIPPA-protected information to the Sheriff's deputy

142. Plaintiff was placed on a continuous FMLA leave starting on February 9, 2022

143. Beginning in approximately March of 2021, Plaintiff had begun experiencing mental health symptoms due to stress caused by Defendant Diina's, Balys' and Greenan's harassment.

144. Towards the end of 2021, Plaintiff's symptoms escalated.

145. Plaintiff suffered from extreme sadness, hopelessness, increased irritation, isolation, tiredness, inability to sleep, headaches.

146. The symptoms described in ¶ 145, along with extreme hopelessness and suicidal thoughts, led to Plaintiff's admission to BryLin Hospital.

147. While an inpatient at Brylin, Plaintiff underwent intensive counseling at minimum twice daily.

148. Plaintiff was placed on sleep medication, antidepressants and anxiety medication.

149. After her release from BryLin, Plaintiff attended counseling every other week, then monthly.

150. Since February 2022, Plaintiff's doctor has prescribed increases of her antidepressant and Vrylar to help with the depression.

151. After her release from in-patient care Plaintiff continued to treat with mental health professionals including both therapy and medication.

152. On March 1, 2022, Plaintiff was placed on paid administrative leave for alleged misconduct; Plaintiff was not informed of what the alleged misconduct was.

153. Plaintiff contacted her Union about the change in her title and what she perceived to be harassment and bullying to which she was subjected by Defendants Amoia and Balys; she was informed that the Union would prepare a complaint to the Public Employees Relations Board ("PERB").

154. A PERB complaint was filed on March 1, 2022.

155. While Plaintiff was on paid administrative leave, Defendant Balys stated in the Sheriff's main office that he and First Deputy Superintendent Phil Kuppel were going to do everything in their power to get rid of Plaintiff.

156. On or about April 27, 2022, Plaintiff again contacted the US DoJ attorney and provided information about reviews of incidents involving potential violations of inmates' constitutional and civil rights.

157. On or about June 13, 2022, Plaintiff was contacted by an Investigator from the Erie County District Attorney's office who asked to schedule a meeting about "some problems at the Holding Center."

158. Plaintiff understood the call to be in response to her efforts to report violations of the Consent Decree in 09-cv-849 and the change in her job title in violation of County budget provisions and Civil Service rules, and agreed to meet with the Investigator.

159. The Investigator did not inform Plaintiff that Plaintiff was herself a subject of Investigation.

160. Plaintiff answered the Investigator's questions, many of which related to Plaintiff's cell phone usage.

161. Plaintiff was puzzled by the questions, and asked the Investigator if the conversation related to Plaintiff's report of civil rights violations within the County Jails.

162. The Investigator answered that was not the focus of the conversation, at which point Plaintiff terminated the conversation.

163. The lack of information exacerbated Plaintiff's stress and depression.

164. On or about July 15, 2022, after Plaintiff had been on administrative leave for four and a half months without learning anything meaningful about the reason for that leave, Plaintiff submitted a letter of resignation to Defendant Phillips.

165. Plaintiff resigned from her position in hopes of stabilizing her mental health.

166. On or about August 5, 2022, Plaintiff received a letter from the Erie County District Attorney advising that she was being investigated for unidentified misconduct.

167. Plaintiff retained counsel.

168. In May of 2023, more than fifteen months after she was placed on administrative leave, Plaintiff learned for the first time that the alleged misconduct involved approximately \$1,800 of discrepancies in her time records between November 1, 2021 and February 7, 2022.

169. Plaintiff was offered a plea agreement pursuant to which she would initially enter a plea to a Misdemeanor offense and accept a referral to Mental Health Court.

170. Pursuant to the plea agreement, if Plaintiff successfully complied with the Mental Health Court referral, the criminal plea would be withdrawn, and she would enter a plea to disorderly conduct, a non-criminal Violation.

171. In light of the ongoing stress and depression caused by the events described herein, Plaintiff, in consultation with her attorney, therapist, and husband, concluded that it was in her best interest to accept the plea.

172. On September 15, 2023, Plaintiff was arraigned and processed by the District Attorney's office.

173. On or about September 26, 2023, Defendant Garcia stated at a press conference that Plaintiff had pled guilty to making false timesheet entries totaling "approximately \$1,300."

174. On information and belief, the amount of money at issue was approximately \$1,200.

175. Plaintiff entered a plea pursuant to the plea agreement on November 14, 2023.

176. As of the date of this Complaint, Plaintiff has been in full compliance with the terms of the referral to Mental Health Court for nearly a year.

177. Plaintiff has been assured that she will shortly withdraw her original plea and be allowed to plead guilty to a non-criminal violation.

178. In May of 2024 Plaintiff began treating with a psychotherapist to help deal with her social isolation and anxiety, in addition to her ongoing treatment with a psychiatrist.

179. Plaintiff suffers from anxiety and fear much of the time.

180. In addition to resigning from her position with the County, Plaintiff has lost her legal nurse consulting business.

181. As of the date of this Complaint, Plaintiff continues to treat for Major Depressive Disorder, Anxiety, and PTSD via medication and therapy.

182. The actions of Defendants Howard, Greenan, Diina and Balys in excluding Plaintiff from decision making responsibilities, and refusing to work with her in her capacity as Director of the Correctional Health Division demeaned Plaintiff among her colleagues and caused her to suffer extreme mental health harm.

183. The actions of Defendants Garcia, Cooley, Phillips and Amoia in stripping Plaintiff of the duties contained in her civil service job description and assigning her to quasi-clerical duties demeaned Plaintiff among her colleagues and caused her to suffer extreme mental health harm.

184. The actions of Defendants Garcia, Cooley, Phillips and Amoia in suspending Plaintiff without an explanation exacerbated the mental health harm to Plaintiff caused by the actions described in ¶¶ 182-183.

185. The actions of Defendants Garcia, Cooley, Phillips and Amoia in delaying approximately four months before referring the matter to the District Attorney for investigation further exacerbated the mental health harm to Plaintiff caused by the actions described ¶¶ 182-1840.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF 42 USC § 1983

186. Plaintiff reasserts and realleges the allegations set forth in ¶¶ 1 through 185 as though fully set forth herein.

187. From March of 2021 through early February 2022, Plaintiff repeatedly brought to the relevant Defendants' attention violations of the consent decree in 09-cv-849 and of the laws protecting inmates' constitutional and other civil rights.

188. When Plaintiff's efforts to secure an end to the violations of inmates' rights were unsuccessful, Plaintiff notified representatives of the USDoJ and the SCOC of Defendants' actions.

189. Plaintiff's notifications to the USDoJ and the SCOC were not made pursuant to her official duties as Director of Correctional Health.

190. Plaintiff's notifications to the USDoJ and the SCOC were made in her capacity as a concerned private citizen of Erie County who was speaking out on a matter of public concern and importance.

191. After Plaintiff contacted the USDoJ and the SCOC, Defendants retaliated against Plaintiff by demoting her, stripping her of her administrative duties, and excluding her from communications and meetings relating to her duties as Director of the Division of Correctional Health.

192. Defendants thereafter placed Plaintiff on an indefinite administrative leave, referred the matter to the District Attorney for investigation, and accepted her resignation, approximately four and one half months after Plaintiff's administrative leave began.

193. In May of 2023, ten months after Plaintiff resigned, and fourteen months after she was placed on paid administrative leave, the District Attorney finally notified Plaintiff of the nature of the alleged misconduct of which she was accused, and entered into negotiations that ultimately led to Plaintiff accepting a plea agreement nearly two years after Defendants' retaliation against Plaintiff commenced.

194. Defendants' actions violated Plaintiff's right to freedom of speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

195. As a result of Defendants' illegal actions, Plaintiff suffered loss of income, damage to reputation, injury to her mental health, loss of enjoyment of life and other pain and suffering justifying an award of damages against said Defendants, plus interest.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF NEW YORK HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

196. Plaintiff reasserts and realleges the allegations set forth in ¶¶ 1 through 195 as though fully set forth herein.

197. Beginning in or about March of 2021, Plaintiff was subjected to a hostile work environment on the basis of her gender by Defendant Diina.

198. Plaintiff complained of Defendants Diina's actions to Defendant Greenan.

199. On information and belief, Defendant Greenan took no actions to stop Defendant Diina's harassment, nor to remove Plaintiff from the hostile situation, but merely referred Plaintiff to the County EEO office.

200. At approximately the same time, Defendant Greenan recommended to Defendant Howard that Defendant Balys be placed in the position of Compliance Officer for which Defendant Balys was not qualified, and modified the Compliance Officer job description to meet Defendant Balys' qualifications.

201. Defendant Greenan's actions placed Defendant Balys in a position from which Balys could continue the pattern of gender-based harassment and bullying of Plaintiff commenced by Defendant Diina.

202. Defendants Howard, Greenan, Diina and Balys thereafter excluded Plaintiff from the decision-making process, prevented her from effectively fulfilling the responsibilities of her position, and placed a male subordinate employee in a position that was *de facto* equivalent to Plaintiff's own position.

203. In 2022, Defendants Garcia, Cooley, Amoia and Phillips officially implemented the *de facto* demotion of Plaintiff referenced in ¶ 202.

204. Defendants' actions subjected Plaintiff to a hostile work environment and to adverse changes in the terms and conditions of her employment because of her gender in violation of the New York Human Rights Law.

205. As a result of Defendants' illegal actions, Plaintiff suffered loss of income, damage to reputation, injury to her mental health, loss of enjoyment of life and other pain and suffering justifying an award of damages against said Defendants, plus interest.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests this Court to enter Judgment:

- a. Holding that Defendants have violated Plaintiff's rights under 42 U.S.C. §1983 and the New York Human Rights Law;
- b. Awarding Plaintiff damages to the maximum amount permitted by law for the violation of her First Amendment rights and her right to be free from gender-based discrimination;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff injunctive relief;
- d. Awarding Plaintiff pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to the maximum amount permitted by law;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff attorney's fees and costs to the maximum amount permitted by law; and
- f. Providing such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated:

_____/s/ Lindy S. Korn_____
LINDY S. KORN
Attorney for Plaintiff
22 Washington Street
9th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-856-5676
lkorn@lkornlaw-law.com

_____/s/ Anna Marie Richmond_____
ANNA MARIE RICHMOND
Attorney for Plaintiff
2500 Rand Building
14 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203-1295
716-854-1100
annamarierichmondsg@gmail.com



COUNTY OF ERIE

JEREMY C. TOTH
COUNTY ATTORNEY

KRISTEN M. WALDER
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

December 17, 2024

Ms. Olivia Owens, Clerk
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Ms. Owens:

In compliance with the Resolution No. 306 passed by the Erie County Legislature on June 25, 1987, regarding notification of lawsuits and claims filed against the County of Erie, enclosed please find a copy of the following:

File Name:	<i>Kyser, Stephen v. County of Erie</i>
Document Received:	Notice of Claim
Name of Claimant:	Stephen Kyser 349 Dewey Avenue Buffalo, New York 14214
Claimant's attorney:	Kenneth P. Lowe, Esq. Law Offices of Robert D. Berkun 501 John James Audubon Parkway, Suite 300 Amherst, New York 14228 Buffalo, New York 14202

Should you have any questions, please call.

Very truly yours,

JEREMY C. TOTH
Erie County Attorney

JCT:dld
Enc.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:

STEPHEN KYSER,

Claimant,

v.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

ERIE COUNTY,

Respondent.

TO: Jeremy C. Toth, Esq.
Erie County Attorney
Edward A. Rath County Office Building
95 Franklin Street, Room 1634
Buffalo, New York 14202

Michael P. Kearns
Erie County Clerk
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Claimant, STEPHEN KYSER, by and through his attorneys, the Law Offices of Robert D. Berkun, 501 John James Audubon Parkway, Suite 300, Amherst, NY 14228, hereby makes a claim against the Respondent, ERIE COUNTY, as follows:

1. The claim is made by STEPHEN KYSER ("Claimant"), and his date of birth is December 20, 1966.
2. The Claimant resides at 349 Dewey Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14214.
3. That on or about the 17th day of September 2024, the Claimant was caused to trip and fall as a result of the negligently maintained, dilapidated, broken, raised, and/or depressed portion of sidewalk adjacent/and or appurtenant to the premises identified as Erie County Family Court, 1 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14202 (property ownership identifies the property as 194 Pearl Street, Buffalo, New York 14202) ("Subject Premises"). Specifically,

Claimant tripped and fell on the sidewalk running along West Eagle Street, adjacent and/or appurtenant to the Subject Premises.

4. Upon information and belief, maintenance of said sidewalk is the responsibility of ERIE COUNTY.

5. That the incident described above was caused by the negligence of ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees and/or contractors, in that ERIE COUNTY did not take all adequate, reasonable, and necessary steps to provide for the safety of the Claimant. That, specifically, ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees and/or contractors, were careless, negligent, and/or reckless in the following ways: failing to maintain the sidewalk adjacent to the Subject Premises; failing to timely correct the defective condition; failing to warn Claimant of the dangerous/hazardous condition of the aforementioned sidewalk and surrounding area when ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors, knew, or should have known in the exercise of reasonable care, that people lawfully on the premises would walk on said sidewalk and surrounding area which was then dangerous/hazardous due to the negligently maintained, dilapidated, broken, raised, and/or depressed portion of sidewalk adjacent and/or appurtenant to the Subject Premises; failing to correct the condition of the aforementioned sidewalk and surrounding area which was in existence for hours and/or days prior to Claimant's fall; ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors, knew, or should have known in the exercise of reasonable care, of the aforesaid dangerous and/or hazardous condition and failed to take any measures to block access to the dangerous/hazardous area to prevent injury to those lawfully thereon; Claimant was injured as a result of the dangerous/hazardous condition which was allowed to occur and continue on the premises due to the action and/or inaction of ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors; ERIE COUNTY, its agents,

servants, employees, and/or contractors, had a duty to properly inspect and maintain the premises, and keep same in a reasonably safe condition to prevent foreseeable injury to this persons on the premises; ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors, knew, or should have known in the exercise of reasonable care, of the existence of the dangerous/hazardous condition; failing to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in that ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors, were generally careless and negligent, causing injury to the Claimant who was lawfully on the premises.

6. Specifically, the claim arises from a trip-and-fall-type incident resulting from the aforementioned negligently maintained sidewalk, which was caused by the actions and/or inactions of ERIE COUNTY, its agents, servants, employees, and/or contractors.

7. That as a result of this fall, the Claimant, sustained serious personal injuries, including, but not limited to a right shoulder/rotator cuff injury.

8. That the Claimant has incurred various medical expenses and is continuing to treat with medical providers for the injuries he sustained due to the negligence of the Respondent, ERIE COUNTY.

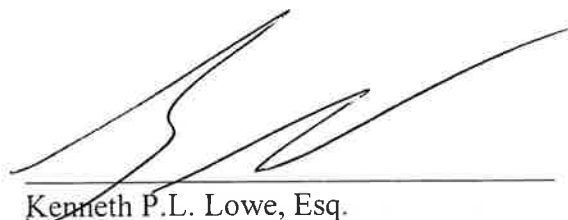
9. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** are nine (9) photographs of the subject location.

10. That the Claimant, STEPHEN KYSER, hereby makes a claim against the Respondent, the ERIE COUNTY, for personal injuries, medical expenses, past, present and future pain suffering and loss of enjoyment of life suffered as a result of the incident that occurred on or about September 17, 2024 on the negligently maintained portion of sidewalk adjacent and/or appurtenant to the Subject Premises.

11. That the Claimant, respectfully reserves the right to amend this Notice of Claim if necessary.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in the event that the Respondent fails to resolve the matter, the Claimant intends to commence an action in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Erie, to recover damages in an amount which is currently undetermined, together with the costs and disbursements of this action, and for such this and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: Amherst, New York
September 27, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth P.L. Lowe', is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth P.L. Lowe, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT D. BERKUN
Attorneys for Claimant
501 John James Audubon Pkwy, Suite 300
Amherst, NY 14228
(716) 855-3255

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:

STEPHEN KYSER,

Claimant,

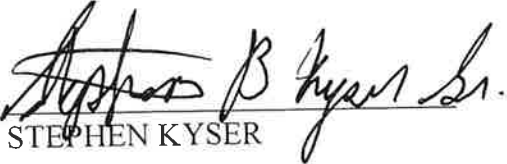
v.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

ERIE COUNTY,

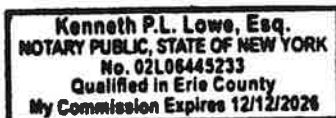
Respondent.

STEPHEN KYSER, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that the deponent is the claimant in the within action; that the deponent has read the foregoing NOTICE OF CLAIM and knows the contents hereof; that the same is true to the deponent's knowledge, except as to the matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters the deponent believes them to be true.


STEPHEN KYSER

Sworn to before me this 27 day
of September, 2024.


NOTARY PUBLIC



Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2M-1

NYS DEC

Brownfield Cleanup Program Application
from Jemal's Loop, LLC

Attachments

25COMM. 2M-1

Notice and language identification chart to be mailed to those on contact list included in the BCP Application:

Public Notice

CO LEG JAN 6 '25 PM 3:47

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application from Jemal's Loop, LLC for a site known as 61 Terrace, site ID #C915381. This site is located in the City of Buffalo, within the County of Erie, and is located at 61 Terrace.

Access the application and other relevant documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915381/>. The documents also are available at the document repository located at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY, 14203.

There are several ways to comment on BCP applications. Comments can be submitted to the site Project Manager Matt King at 700 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14209; via email at matthew.king@dec.ny.gov; or by calling (716) 851-7220. All comments must be submitted by **January 23, 2025**.

Site information can be viewed by entering the site ID noted above at:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

We would also encourage those interested in receiving information on future activities at this site or any other site to sign up to DEC's Contaminated Sites Email List at:
<https://nydecprod.prod.acquia-sites.com/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>.

What is the Brownfield Cleanup Program?

New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) is designed to encourage private-sector cleanups of brownfields and to promote their redevelopment as a means to revitalize economically blighted communities. The BCP is an alternative to "greenfield" (land not previously developed or contaminated) development and is intended to remove some of the barriers to, and provide tax incentives for, the redevelopment of brownfields. Since its inception (2003), the BCP has catalyzed the cleanup of more than 550 contaminated sites statewide and incentivized redevelopment. There are more than 650 active sites in the BCP.

Additional information on the State's Brownfield program is available at DEC's website:
<https://nydecprod.prod.acquia-sites.com/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/brownfield>.

Notice to be published in newspaper:

Public Notice

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application from Jemal's Loop, LLC for a site known as 61 Terrace, site ID #C915381. This site is located in the City of Buffalo, within the County of Erie, and is located at 61 Terrace. Comments regarding this application must be submitted no later than **January 23, 2024**. Access the application and other relevant documents online through the DECinfo Locator:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915381/>. The documents also are available at the document repository located at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY, 14203. Information regarding the site and how to submit comments can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html> or send comments to Matt King, Project Manager, 700 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14209; via email at matthew.king@dec.ny.gov; or call (716) 851-7220.

To have information such as this notice sent right to your email, sign up with county email listservs available at <https://nydecprod.prod.acquia-sites.com/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>.

Erie County Legislature

Meeting Date: 01/16/2025

SUBJECT

COMM. 2M-2

TOWN OF TONAWANDA
CLERK

Town Board Resolution Regarding EC Sales
Tax

Attachments

25COMM. 2M-2



ED LEG JAN 13 '25 #11:10

January 6, 2025

Erie County Legislature
25 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of the Town Board resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Tonawanda at their special Organizational Meeting held on January 2, 2025 requesting direct payment of Erie County Sales Tax to the Town.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Greco
Town Clerk

MG:bkm

Enclosure



Town of Tonawanda Board
2919 Delaware Ave
Kenmore, NY 14217
Marguerite Greco, Town Clerk

Meeting: 01/02/25 05:00 PM
Department: Town Clerk

RESOLUTION 2025-53

Motion: Request the County of Erie to Make Direct Payment to the Town of Tonawanda, for the Town Portion of the Sales Tax Revenue, as Set Forth in the Agenda Before You.

WHEREAS, Chapter 278 of the Laws of 1947, as amended, authorizes the County of Erie to impose sales and use taxes within said county, and authorizes any town within said county to adopt a resolution requesting direct payment of the amount allocated for distribution to such town;

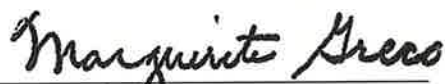
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Tonawanda requests that its share of the amount of money collected from the sales/use tax by the County of Erie be paid directly to the Town of Tonawanda, New York in lieu of applying said share to reduce general town and county taxes levied upon real property in the town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board forward certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive, the Commissioner of Finance, and Clerk of the Erie County Legislature.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carl Szarek, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Gina Santa Maria, Councilmember
AYES:	Emminger, Santa Maria, Szarek, O'Malley, Hennessy

I do certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board held on January 02, 2025 and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript from said original minutes and the whole thereof, and that the resolutions duly adopted by said Town Board are on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the said Town of Tonawanda, Erie County, New York, this 3rd day of January, 2025.


Marguerite Greco, Town Clerk
Town of Tonawanda, NY