

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR ST. JEAN TARD**

**Re: Dissolution of the Erie County Corrections Specialist Advisory Board and  
Reappointment of Members Within 30 Days**

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the Erie County Corrections Specialist Advisory Board “the board” in 2019 was intended to foster meaningful oversight and improvement for the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the local law establishing the board reads “Its mission will be to bring leaders and professionals in our community together to help monitor and improve the County's correctional facilities, improve the lives of those who have left correctional facilities and reduce recidivism and help with re-entry to society, and work together for solutions to problems while continually looking for ways to improve internal operations and procedures in the correctional facilities;” and

**WHEREAS**, the board’s effectiveness has been inconsistent, while there have been times when the board has delivered meaningful results, there have also been prolonged periods where it has failed to meet even the most basic standards of operation; and

**WHEREAS**, the bylaws of the board require the establishment of a schedule of regular meetings for the year, with a minimum of four meetings annually as well as the production of an annual report detailing its progress from the previous year and its goals for the upcoming year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County Charter mandates that advisory boards meet at least four times per year in compliance with the Open Meetings Law; and

**WHEREAS**, none of these requirements have been consistently upheld and at present, the board violates its own bylaws, the Erie County Charter, and the local law that established it; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2205 of the Erie County Charter grants the creating authority the ability to investigate, remove ineffective chairs or inactive members of boards and, if necessary, recommend dissolving the board altogether; and

**WHEREAS**, restoring the board’s effectiveness is essential to advancing positive change and ensuring proper oversight of the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no conceivable alternative that will result in positive change aside from removing all current members of this non-functioning board and appointing new members.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature open an investigation of the Erie County Corrections Specialist Advisory Board in its current form due to its persistent violations of its bylaws and the Erie County Charter; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that all current members of the board are hereby removed, effective immediately, to allow for an investigation and the appointment of a new, more effective, and engaged membership; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature requests Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Chair Timothy Meyers of the Erie County Legislature, Majority Leader John Gilmour of the Erie County Legislature, Minority Leader John Mills of the Erie County Legislature, Erie County Sheriff John Garcia, Erie County Commissioner of Probation Richard Robillard, Erie County Commissioner of Mental Health Mark O'Brien, and the Bar Association of Erie County to submit their recommendations for the board within 30 days of this resolution's adoption; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Clerk is directed to send a copy of the certified resolution to the above-mentioned parties for immediate action.