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SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

September 3, 2025

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St.
Buffalo, NY 14202

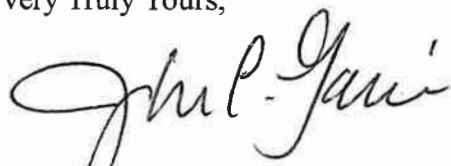
Re: Aviation Unit Training

Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authorization for the Erie County Sheriff's Office to engage Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. for Aviation Unit training.

Representatives of my office will be made available to answer any questions you may have.

Very Truly Yours,



John C. Garcia
Sheriff of Erie County

Attachments

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Re: Aviation Unit Training
Date: September 3, 2025

Summary of Recommended Action

This resolution will authorize the Purchasing Director to create the documents necessary for the Erie County Sheriff's Office to engage with Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. to provide two (2) trainings to the Aviation Unit:

- 2-day course on Sideshow/Street Racing Enforcement at a cost of \$10,000.00
- 5-day course on Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) tactics at a cost of \$25,000.00

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

Funding is currently available in the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Police Services Division training and education operating budget (Fund 110, Funds Center 11510), GL #510200.

Reasons for Recommendation

Illegal sideshows, which refer to illegal demonstrations in which operators of motor vehicles may gather to perform dangerous stunts, and street racing presents a unique challenge to law enforcement. This module covers the dangers of such events, tactics that can be used by law enforcement to address them and officer safety in enforcement. The Erie County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit will benefit from learning this information.

TFO training includes instruction on the basic fundamentals of aerial law enforcement tactics, including equipment proficiency, landmark identification and coordination of ground units.

Consequences of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit would forfeit the opportunity to engage in this necessary training.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

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

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Re: Aviation Unit Training

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 includes a highly skilled Aviation Unit, which is responsible for aerial patrol of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, sideshows and illegal street races are a growing concern of law enforcement, as they present a dangerous environment for drivers and pedestrians on streets and in parking lots; and

WHEREAS, airborne law enforcement operations offer a useful asset to deter and respond to sideshows and illegal street races; and

WHEREAS, a skilled Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) is a necessary component of the Aviation Unit's flight crews, as they operate important tactical equipment and coordinate with police units on the ground; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office has identified Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. as an appropriate vendor to offer sideshow/illegal street race training to the Aviation Unit; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office has also identified Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. as an appropriate vendor to offer training in TFO tactics; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding for these trainings is available within the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Police Services Division (Fund 110, Funds Center 11510) Training and Education budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,

RESOLVED, the Erie County Sheriff's Office is authorized to engage Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. for sideshow/street racing enforcement training in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Sheriff's Office is authorized to engage Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. for TFO training in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature waives the procedures, as impractical, provided for in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code for the purposes of sideshow/street racing enforcement training and TFO training; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Purchasing Director is authorized to create the documents necessary for the Erie County Sheriff's Office to engage Tactical Flight Operations, Inc. for sideshow/street racing enforcement training and TFO training; and be it further

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

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated