

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATOR ST. JEAN TARD**Re: A Request for the New Highmark Stadium Erie County Hospitality Center Policy Plans**

WHEREAS, Erie County, New York State, and the Buffalo Bills, LLC entered into a Stadium Lease for the construction of a new stadium on May 4, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium Lease identifies that an “Erie County Hospitality Center” will be implemented in the New Highmark Stadium (see Stadium Lease Article 2 (page 19); and

WHEREAS, the County is responsible for creating the policy to govern the use of the “Erie County Hospitality Center” at the New Highmark Stadium (see Stadium Lease Section 2.2(b)); and

WHEREAS, the Stadium Lease states that the Erie County Hospitality Center can be used for “charitable or other public functions, as may be determined by the County at its sole discretion.” (see Stadium Lease – Section 2.2(b)); and

WHEREAS, Erie County has the sole discretion for how the Erie County Hospitality Center shall be used and a policy governing its use should, specifically on charitable and other public functions use, mirror the goals of the related New Highmark Stadium Community Benefits Agreement by benefitting the community organizations, youth groups, and “targeted groups” listed in the Community Benefits Agreement; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the New Highmark Stadium’s existence, into which Erie County invested \$250 million, that the stadium be accessible to all, and create experiences for residents to feel like this stadium is being built with community inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, the New Highmark Stadium is scheduled to open in less than 12 months, we must begin the process to create the policy for the Erie County Hospitality Center so that the community can feel the ownership in this suite that they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature requests an update on the Administration’s plans, ideas or draft policy that will govern the New Highmark Stadium Erie County Hospitality Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk is directed to send a copy of the resolution to the County Executive and any other person deemed necessary.