



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

January 8, 2026

Hon. Michael Kooshian
Chair, Finance & Management Committee
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Discussion of COMM. 1E-4 (2026)

Chair Kooshian:

A recent audit report submitted by the Erie County Comptroller, COMM. 1E-4 (2026), has identified significant concerns regarding proper use of Erie County cultural grant funds by the African American Cultural Center. This report identifies numerous internal control deficiencies and improper financial practices from the grant period of 2020 through 2022 and further indicates there may be a reason to forward this matter to local law enforcement.

While the organization has changed leadership since the audit period in question, findings in the report suggest a discussion and further examination are necessary. The report states that the African American Cultural Center was unable to substantiate the use of grant funds awarded to them by Erie County, causing them to be noncompliant with the terms of the grant agreement. Taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability, and we as Erie County Legislators must do our due diligence to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used appropriately.

We respectfully request a discussion on this item at the next meeting of the Finance and Management Committee. Invitees should include Erie County Comptroller Kevin Hardwick and members of his audit staff who worked to compile this report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Mills".

John J. Mills
Minority Leader, District 11

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank J. Todaro".

Frank J. Todaro
Legislator, District 8

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher D. Greene".

Christopher D. Greene
Legislator, District 6

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsay R. Lorigo".

Lindsay R. Lorigo
Legislator, District 10