

## **Erie County Executive: Hands Off Our IDA!!**

Our freshly minted Erie County Executive, Mark Poloncarz, has made it clear that he intends to use his lackey New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan to try to push through a bill in Albany that would eliminate the Clarence Industrial Development Agency (CIDA). Blinded by power after only 90 days in office, Poloncarz wants to have the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) replace the Clarence Industrial Development Agency. Mr. Poloncarz would like to have the future of all business development in the Town of Clarence run by a faceless, colorless New York State agency in downtown buffalo, the ECIDA. Under his current proposal, his team of political cronies and who have been appointed (not elected) to the ECIDA Board of Directors would be responsible for making all the economic decisions in Clarence. Why should this matter to Clarence residents?

The Clarence Industrial Development Agency (CIDA) is a New York State agency that operates on a local level, is run by a volunteer board of directors (from Clarence) and is funded by the fees charged to businesses that use its services (in Clarence). No Clarence taxpayer dollars are **ever** used in CIDA business. The agency seeks to attract new business to Clarence, to encourage existing business to stay in Clarence, and to lower the current tax rate for Clarence residents by growing the commercial base. If you had a chance to look at the front page of the Buffalo News on Sunday, April 22 you would have seen a list of 5 projects that have been completed in Erie County over the last two years. Each project created at least 10 new jobs. Of all of these projects, Paula's Donuts was far and away the most efficient, creating 12 full time, 14 part time jobs and costing the State of New York taxpayers only \$421 per job. The national average to create a new job is about \$50,000 per Job. The New York average is \$5,000 per job. The ECIDA rate is \$3000 per job and the rate for suburban IDA's is about \$1,000 per job. The Board of Directors of the Clarence Industrial Development Agency brought Paula's Donuts to Clarence for only \$421 per job. Not bad!!

The Clarence Industrial Development Agency has helped these fine projects businesses grow and prosper over the last ten years; Paula's Donuts, Dash's Market, Pizza Inn, DKS Accountants, Hayes Fish, Staybridge Suites, Curious Minds Preschool, YOLO Restaurant, NorthTown Volvo, Porsche & Land Rover, Greatbach, Dynabrade, Seal & Design, Italian Marble, John Roba Inc., and many, many others. Chances are that you have visited at least one of these businesses, and you may have done business with All of them. The Clarence Industrial Development Agency is proud of its record of bringing new business to Clarence and helping existing businesses to stay and prosper. It has created hundreds of jobs and added many thousands of dollars to the tax rolls.

Questions or comments about this article can be directed to [dhartzell@clarence.ny.us](mailto:dhartzell@clarence.ny.us). My door is always open, stop by anytime!!