



COUNTY OF ERIE

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
COUNTY CLERK

March 20, 2018

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Identified Erie County Clerk Concentration Funds

Dear Honorable Members:

Between the years 2000 through 2006 the Erie County Clerk's office transferred funds from the Clerk's Concentration account to an investment account with the Comptroller's office. The interest earned on the initial \$1.5 million investment totaled \$440,000.00 for the years 2004 through 2008. Since then the interest earning has significantly declined from \$100,000.00 in 2006 to only \$902.00 in 2016. The 2018 budget for the interest account is \$1,000.00.

In an effort to better serve the taxpayers of Erie County, the initial \$1.5 million has been transferred back to the Clerk's Concentration Account. These funds will be better utilized to meet the Clerk's monthly obligations and keep all accounts current on a monthly basis. In addition, these funds will be dedicated to provide an environment for both the employees and taxpayers of Erie County where their wellness, safety and a positive customer service experience is paramount.

The Erie County Clerk's office is evaluating all the departments within the Clerk's office including the Auto Bureau and Pistols. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify areas of improvements for the customers and employees resulting in proficiencies that enhance customer service, save the tax payers money and improve the overall environment and safety for both the employees and customers. So far we have identified needed technology upgrades including new and/or additional workstations and furniture at the six auto bureaus, efficiencies and upgrades in the Pistol Department and Passport application processing.

These improvements will have a direct impact that will sustain a positive customer service experience within the Clerk's office including the pistols office and auto bureaus. Further, the investment in technology within the auto bureaus will help compete against the State's growing campaign effort to steer potential customers to completing their DMV transactions online through the State's website instead of "Renewing Local", where a portion of the funds are kept here in Erie County.

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I am presenting this update to your Honorable Body in an effort to demonstrate my commitment to serve all residents of Erie County and its employees. I will be submitting, as required, items for your consideration to effectuate positive change in the Clerk's Office.

If your Honorable Body requires additional information, kindly contact the Clerk's Office.

Very truly yours,

Michael P. Kearns
Erie County Clerk