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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 9, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: TRANSFER OF STATE AID FOR NYS SNOWMOBILE TRAILS GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed is a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authority to transfer the maintenance and subsequent funding from the New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-In-Aid Program from the Erie County Parks System to select clubs within the Federation of Snowmobile Clubs of Erie County. This resolution also requests permission to create agreements with the defined snowmobile club for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails within the Erie County Parks System.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Troy P. Schinzel at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/kd
Enclosure

cc: Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

MEMORANDUM

To:	Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From:	Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re:	Transfer of State Aid for NYS Snowmobile Trails Grant-In-Aid Program
Date:	July 9, 2012

SUMMARY

The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry receives annual grant funding from New York State for maintaining approximately17 miles of snowmobile trails within the County Park System. The Parks would like to transfer the responsibilities of marking, grooming and maintaining these trails to select Clubs within the Erie County Federation of Snowmobile Clubs. These clubs have the necessary staff and equipment to do this work in a much more timely and efficient manner.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The County will not receive New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant-In-Aid funding. The grant funding averages between $5,000.00 - $6,000.00 annually. This funding would now be transferred to the individual snowmobile clubs that are responsible for marking, grooming and maintaining trails within specific parks and forestry areas.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry has limited resources for marking, maintaining and grooming snowmobile trails that lie within Erie County Parks. Additionally, any time in the past dedicated to this maintenance function can now be spent elsewhere within the Parks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Many of the snowmobile clubs in Erie County maintain trails that lead up to and from Parks, Recreation and Forestry Areas belonging to Erie County.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County will need to purchase additional equipment and materials for the marking, maintaining and grooming of these snowmobile trails. Additionally, the Parks Department may not have the necessary staffing levels for meeting the requirements set forth by the New York State Snowmobile Trails Grant-In-Aid Program.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

New York State will be notified of the County's intent to transfer both the maintenance and funding of the approved trails from the Parks Departments to the snowmobile clubs. Agreements will be entered into between the County and the specific snowmobile clubs for the maintenance of trails that fall within Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Areas.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPEARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: TRANSFER OF STATE AID FOR NYS SNOWMOBILE TRAILS GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry currently receives approximately $5,000.00 from a New York State Grant for developing and maintaining approved snowmobile trails located within the Erie County Park System; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain snowmobile trails due to the lack of staffing and necessary equipment; and

WHEREAS, Snowmobile Clubs in Erie County are willing to enter into agreements with the County to take over the maintenance aspect and receive the NYS funding for these County trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with individual Snowmobile clubs of Erie County for the purpose of transferring the maintenance and NYS funding of the NYS Snowmobile Grant-In-Aid Program approved snowmobile trails located within the Erie County Park System; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Erie County Executive, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, and Assistant County Attorney, Kristen Walder, of the Law Department.