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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 15, 2012

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Personnel Adjustment – Erie County Correctional Health Services

Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Health provides medical oversight and staff who provide health care at the Erie County Correctional Facility and Erie County Holding Center under an Interdepartmental Agreement with the Erie County Sheriff.

Authorization is requested to create a Head Nurse – Holding Center title with a variable minimum and to delete one vacant Registered Nurse – Holding Center position in the Department of Health's Division of Correctional Health Services in order to more effectively provide healthcare services to the prisoner population of the Erie County Holding Center.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/tc
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Personnel Adjustment – Erie County Correctional Health Services
Date: September 15, 2012

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to create a Head Nurse – Holding Center title with a variable minimum and to delete one vacant Registered Nurse – Holding Center position in the Department of Health's Division of Correctional Health Services in order to more effectively provide healthcare services to the prisoner population of the Erie County Holding Center.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County dollars are required for this request. Funding will be obtained from the deletion of one vacant Registered Nurse – Holding Center and other vacancy control savings within Correctional Health's 2012 Budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Health - Correctional Health Services continually operates twenty-four hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year; this includes medical staff regularly providing direct patient care and regularly being on call for medical decisions. The Holding Center does not have a supervising nurse on duty overnight and such supervision is necessary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Health is requesting the creation of one full time position of Head Nurse – Holding Center, JG 10 Step 3, for the overnight shift to provide supervision.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Health will be unable to provide overnight supervision of medical staff in the Holding Center which could lead to negative consequences by the US Department of Justice.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management and the Department of Personnel to implement this request and take the appropriate steps necessary to recruit and hire qualified candidates.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RE: Personnel Adjustments – Erie County Correctional Health Services

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff is responsible for health care at the Erie County Correctional Facility and the Erie County Holding Center; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health provides medical oversight and medical staffing to provide health care at the Erie County Correctional Facility and Erie County Holding Center under an Interdepartmental Agreement with the Erie County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health's Correctional Health Division does not have a supervising nurse on duty overnight in the Holding Center and believes that the position of Head Nurse is essential between 11 pm and 7 am to provide supervision and oversight, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health requests the creation of one full time position of a Head Nurse - Holding Center, JG 10, variable minimum Step 3 (annual salary $47,445) in the Teamsters bargaining unit, with a corresponding deletion of one vacant Registered Nurse - Holding Center and

WHEREAS, funding for the implementation of this request is available from the deletion of the two vacant positions and there is no negative 2012 budgetary impact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one full time position of Head Nurse – Holding Center, JG 10, Step 3 variable minimum ($47,445 annual salary) in the Teamsters bargaining unit, and the deletion of one vacant Registered Nurse – Holding Center (position number 51007844) as indicated on B100 #6949; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Health, Director of Budget and Management and Commissioner of Health are hereby authorized to make the necessary personnel and budgetary adjustments to effectuate this request; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Sheriff, the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Director of Labor Relations, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.