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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 9, 2012

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

RE: Medical Examiner Acceptance of NYS Grant Award

Dear Honorable Members:

The Medical Examiner's Division of the Erie County Department of Health is tasked with performing analytical testing of blood and urine for the presence of prescription and non-prescription drugs and to determine their concentration. These samples are submitted to the Medical Examiner's laboratory by law enforcement agencies when a person is apprehended for driving while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

Analytical testing of blood and urine for the presence of prescription and non-prescription drugs requires the laboratory to use certified reference materials purchased from reliable sources to perform this work. These materials are quite expensive and due to the proliferation of new and old drugs used by the driving public, the cost to the laboratory is very high. The enclosed resolution authorizes acceptance of a grant award from New York State in the amount of $15,000 to be used to purchase the certified reference materials.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Gale Burstein, MD. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/lmg
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Health Department
Re: Medical Examiner Acceptance of NYS Grant Award
Date: October 3, 2012

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to accept a $15,000 grant award from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The County will receive funding in the amount of $15,000 awarded by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Program.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Analytical testing of blood and urine for the presence of prescription and non-prescription drugs requires the laboratory to use certified reference materials purchased from reliable sources to perform this work. These materials are quite expensive and due to the proliferation of new and old drugs used by the driving public, the cost to the laboratory is very high. Acceptance of this funding will allow for the purchase of certified reference materials without cost to the County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Medical Examiner's Division Forensic Toxicology Laboratory is tasked to perform analytical testing of blood and urine for the presence of prescription and non-prescription drugs and to determine their concentration. These samples are submitted to the laboratory by law enforcement agencies when a person is apprehended for driving while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County Executive will be unable to accept the grant award and thereby unable to assist the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Program with their efforts to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths on the roadways.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will follow appropriate steps necessary to implement the provisions of the grant award.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Medical Examiner Acceptance of Grant Award

WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Forensic Toxicology laboratory is tasked with performing analytical testing of blood and urine for the presence of prescription and non-prescription drugs and to determine their concentration; and

WHEREAS, these samples are submitted to the Medical Examiner's laboratory by law enforcement agencies when a person is apprehended for driving while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs; and

WHEREAS, testing for drugs requires the laboratory to use certified reference materials purchased from reliable sources to perform this work; and

WHEREAS, this certified reference material is very expensive as the cost to manufacture and certify the identity and purity is very high; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner's Division has been awarded a grant in the amount of $15,000 to participate in the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Program whose goal is to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths on New York State's roads; and

WHEREAS, funding will be used for the purchase of certified reference material.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to accept a grant award in the amount of $15,000 from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Program to be budgeted as follows:

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles
HIGHWAY SAFEY GRANT 2013
127DMVTOX1213
10/1/12 – 9/30/13

SAP	Description	Amount
	REVENUE	
409000	State Aid	$15,000
	TOTAL	$15,000
	EXPENSES	
505800	Medical Supplies	$15,000
	TOTAL	$15,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner, in the Erie County Department of Health, 9th Floor, Rath Building.