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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 9, 2012

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

Re: Acceptance of FY 12 Port Security Grant Program

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Emergency Services requesting authorization to accept $135,935 in funding from the U.S Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Fiscal Year 2012 for the Department of Emergency Services. Funding will be utilized to enhance the Erie County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit helicopter with a new camera system.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Dan Neaverth Jr. at the Department of Emergency Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

Enclosure

cc: Dan Neaverth Jr., Department of Emergency Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Emergency Services
Re: Acceptance of FY 12 Port Security Grant Program
Date: October 9, 2012

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached resolution for the Fiscal Year 2012 Port Security Grant Program that will authorize the County Executive to enter into contract to receive $135,935 in Federal Assistance. Funding will be utilized to enhance the Erie County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit through the purchase of a Wescam Camera System for Air One. This camera will be used to improve the safety and security of the Port of Buffalo.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact on the county operating budget. Said contract is 100% reimbursed.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Emergency Services will be allowed to manage the submitted allowable expenditure for $135,935 in the Department of Homeland Security funds and utilize these funds to enhance the ability of Erie County to improve the safety and security of the Port of Buffalo. The acquisition of this equipment will provide an enormous tactical advantage in dealing with security/surveillance missions, detecting IEDs, catastrophic events and terrorist attacks.

The Sheriff's Office is also requesting approval to by-pass normal bidding policy in order to purchase a camera system from the Wescam Corporation to ensure compatibility with existing equipment that would avoid the cost of replacing helicopter mounting, electrical, recording and downlink systems.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a result of existing threats to homeland security, the federal government has allocated funds to be utilized to improve the ability of local governments to deal effectively with emergency and disaster situations. There is a need for Erie County to enhance its ability to manage emergency and disaster situations.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without this Legislation, the Port Security Fiscal Year 2012 contract will not be signed, the funding will not be received for the Department of Emergency Services and the original purpose of what these funds were intended to be utilized will not be completed.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will sign the contract, the $135,935 in Homeland Security grant funds will be received, and the Department of Emergency Services will fulfill its requirements.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
"DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES"

RE: Acceptance of FY 12 Port
Security Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has agreed to provide funding in the amount of $135,935 in federal assistance to be utilized to acquire the Wescam Camera System for the Erie County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit to improve areas of concern along the Port of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office is also requesting approval to by-pass normal bidding policy in order to purchase a camera system from the Wescam corporation to ensure compatibility with existing equipment that would avoid the cost of replacing helicopter mounting, electrical, recording and downlink systems; and

WHEREAS, authorization is required from the Erie County Legislature for the County Executive to enter into a contract and accept $135,935 in federal resources to provide funding for the purchase of this camera system to enhance the ability of Air One to provide a tactical advantage in dealing with security/surveillance missions, detecting IEDs, catastrophic events and terrorist attacks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into contract with the Department of Homeland Security to receive $135,935 in grant funding for the Department of Emergency Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this grant, under the Department of Emergency Services, will be utilized to purchase the Wescam Camera System for the Erie County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit, Air One helicopter to assist first responders along Lake Erie, the Niagara River and the Port of Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Sheriff's Office is hereby authorized to by-pass normal bidding policy in order to purchase a camera system from the Wescam Corporation to ensure compatibility with existing equipment that would avoid the cost of replacing helicopter mounting, electrical, recording and downlink systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said funds will be utilized to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish funding in the Grant Fund 281, as follows:

Erie County Department of Emergency Services
FY 2012 Port Security Grant Program

Revenue	**Increase**
Account 414000 Federal Aid	$ 135,935
Appropriations	**Increase**
Account 561410 Equipment (Lab & Tech)	$ 135,935
Total Appropriations	$ 135,935

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with federal approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Emergency Services c/o Melissa Calhoun, the County Comptroller, and the County Attorney.