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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

OLD COUNTY HALL
92 Franklin St., 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202
Switchboard: 716/858-7500

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Reverend Eugene Pierce, *Chair*
Nan Haynes, *Vice-Chair*
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Ph.: 716/858-8853

October 10, 2012

Honorable Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Restoration of full-time Chaplain position at Erie County Holding Center

Dear County Executive Poloncarz:

The members of the Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board believe that the prisoners at the Erie County Holding Center should have access to a full-time Chaplain. They agree with Common Council Member Reverend Darius G. Pridgen that, the presence of a Chaplain can reduce the incidence of recidivism. Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Rev. Pridgen, in which he explains why the presence of a full-time Chaplain is beneficial to the prisoners and the community.

The present policy of using volunteers, and providing a small stipend to one of the volunteers to conduct 1 weekly church service is not sufficient.

Until 2005 prisoners at the Holding Center had the benefit of a full-time Chaplain. Sadly the position was eliminated in 2005. I am writing on behalf of the Board to request that you support restoration of the Chaplain position in the next Erie County Budget.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eugene L. Pierce

Reverend Eugene L. Pierce
Chair
Enclosure

CC: Erie County Legislature
Buffalo Common Council member, Reverend Darius G. Pridgen

CITY OF BUFFALO
COMMON COUNCIL

DARIUS G. PRIDGEN
ELLICOTT DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER
65 NIAGARA SQUARE, 1408 CITY HALL
BUFFALO, NY 14202-3318
PHONE: (716) 851-4980 • FAX: (716) 851-6576
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Ellicott District Website: www.buffaloellicottdistrict.com

COMMITTEES
CIVIL SERVICE
FINANCE
LEGISLATION

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
VERNEE W. SHAW

January 26, 2012

Eugene L. Pierce
68 West Tulan Dr.
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Dear Reverend Pierce:

This letter serves as a humble request for a full time Chaplain to the Erie County Holding Center and Correctional Facility.

The presence of religious programming in these facilities is tied to the rehabilitation of offenders. Religion is a more relatable form of counseling for prisoners that are familiar with the doctrine, and those who may not typically gravitate towards it may as a result of a Chaplain's established rapport. The Chaplain becomes pastor to the inmates as well as their teacher in spiritual matters. His mission, like that of the church includes regeneration, spiritual development and hope.

I believe the return of a prison Chaplain will assist individuals as they work to reenter society, their self-esteem will increase and repeated or habitual relapse in criminal matters will decrease.

Sincerely,

Darius G. Pridgen
Ellicott District Council Member

Ellicott District... A Great Place To Work, Live, and Enjoy.