COUNTY OF ERIE

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MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 26, 2012

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

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

Re: Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department has been awarded $124,444 in 100% State share funds to implement a program entitled Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children. This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2012 Adopted Budget and to execute a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding. As the State directs that an agency be designated by November 26, 2012 and this service is needed immediately, this proposed resolution seeks Legislative authority to waive section 19.08 of the County Administrative Code which otherwise requires that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be conducted.

In 2008, the State legislature passed the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act. A key provision of the Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system. Services to be provided to child victims of sex trafficking include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence.

The Erie County Department of Social Services is enlisting the expertise of the International Institute of Buffalo to provide these services. The rationale for selecting the International Institute as a sole provider lies in the fact that the International Institute is currently the only organization in Western New York with a focus speficially on victims of human trafficking. The Institute has staff members dedicated only to trafficking issues, who have become the local experts on how best to serve victims. The International Institute also has an existing network of community partners already on board to provide needed identification, assessment, referrals, and services. In addition, the International Institute co-chairs a task force of local, state, and federal law enforcement providers and community stakeholders. In addition, the Erie County Department of Social Services believes that partnering with the International Institute on this endeavor is the most effective and efficient use of the Safe Harbor funds as this will be a single one time appropriation.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Carol Dankert at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your immediate consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Carol Dankert, Department of Social Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Social Services
Re: Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED
Date: November 9, 2012

SUMMARY

This proposed resolution authorizes the Department to amend the 2012 Adopted Budget and to execute a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the 2012 Adopted Budget as a result of this resolution.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department has been awarded $124,444 in 100% State share funds to implement a program entitled Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children. Services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2008, the State legislature passed the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act. A key provision of the Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system. As the State directs that an agency be designated by November 26, 2012 and this service is needed immediately, this proposed resolution seeks Legislative authority to waive section 19.08 of the County Administrative Code which otherwise requires that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be conducted.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

These important services could not be implemented.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The 2012 adopted budget will be amended and a contract will be executed with the International Institute for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: **Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children**
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has been awarded $124,444 in 100% State share funds to implement a program entitled Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the State Legislature passed the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act, and a key provision of the Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, as the State directs that an agency be designated by November 26, 2012 and this service is needed immediately, this proposed resolution seeks Legislative authority to waive section 19.08 of the County Administrative Code which otherwise requires that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be conducted; and

WHEREAS, this proposed resolution authorizes the Department of Social Services to amend the 2012 Adopted Budget and to execute a contract with the International Institute as the lead agency for this program funding; and

WHEREAS, there is no local share fiscal impact to this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and/or the County Executive are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with International Institute for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children program and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2012 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services, Fund 110, Department 120

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE
517172	International Institute	$124,444
	Total Expenditures	$124,444

409000	State Aid		$124,444
		Total Revenues	$124,444

RESOLVED, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby waived and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller, and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.