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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 18, 2012

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

RE: Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services First Responders Non-Eligible for NYS Reimbursement

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum and a proposed resolution from the Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services regarding training for first responders who have been judged ineligible for State training reimbursement by New York State. This proposal will provide a training option to ineligible first responders.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

Enclosure
MCP/jc

cc: Gale Burstein, Department of Health

MEMORANDUM

To:	Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From:	Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services
Re:	First Responders Non-Eligible for NYS Reimbursement
Date:	December 17, 2012

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached resolution for the Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services to establish a training fee to provide courses for certain first responders who have been judged ineligible for State training reimbursement by New York State. The proposal will provide a training option to ineligible first responders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This resolution would allow the Department of Health to recoup expenses for certain first responders who request training but are not eligible for NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) Public Health Law Article 30 funding under New York State Department of Health Emergency Medical Services policy statement #09-06.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services trains and receives State reimbursement for more than 500 emergency medical services (EMS) first responders annually under contract with NYS DOH's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. The County Emergency Medical Services Division receives funding for training EMS first responders whose agencies are recognized by NYS DOH as providing EMS on a routine and on-going basis and have received a NYS EMS agency code. Several first responder agencies in Erie County no longer have an assigned agency code for they do not meet the NYS DOH requirements. Generally, agencies that infrequently or never respond to EMS calls are deemed ineligible by the State. Therefore members of these organizations are not eligible for training reimbursement and will subsequently not be able to participate in County run EMS training.

This resolution will provide a training option to the ineligible first responder agencies by allowing the Erie County Department of Health the ability to charge a training fee for the cost of the training. The fees imposed are identical to the reimbursement rate received by the State for training of eligible responders.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without this legislation the Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services will not be able to train EMS first responders who are not eligible for NYS DOH funding.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Health will implement this program according to the established schedule of fees which are the NYS DOH EMS reimbursement rates and will collect associated reimbursements for the training of EMS first responders.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RE: First Responders Deemed Non-Eligible for NYS Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services does not receive New York State Department of Health emergency medical services (EMS) training reimbursement for EMS first responders whose agency is not eligible for funding under NYS DOH EMS Policy Statement # 09-06; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Division does not have the resources in the 2013 Budget to provide training to ineligible first responder agencies without reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, training can be provided to the ineligible first responder agencies who still request training through the establishment of a training fee; and

WHEREAS, authorization is required in order to establish a training fee for those first responders who are willing to pay said fee for EMS training.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Legislature authorizes the Erie County Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services to collect a fee for training provided to individual first responders from agencies who do not meet the New York State Department of Health requirement for reimbursement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the amount of the fee shall be the same as calculated by the State for the reimbursement of eligible first responders, said fee will be adjusted in accordance with established State reimbursement rates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the amount of the fee imposed for 2013 shall be established as follows:

Erie County Department of Health
Emergency Medical Services Division
NYS DOH EMS Reimbursement Rates for 2013

EMS Course Type	Course Fee
Emergency Medical Technician - Basic Original class	$775
Emergency Medical Technician - Basic Recertification class	$425
Certified First Responder Original class	$260
Certified First Responder Recertification class	$145

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized, upon receipt of said fees, to make required budgetary adjustments in order to increase expense in the amount of reimbursement received as needed, to properly fund the training expense for the ineligible responders; 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 Health Emergency Medical Services Division, the County Comptroller, the Department of Law and to Dr. Gale Burstein, Commissioner, in the Erie County Department of Health.