A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS GRANT, MARINELLI, MAZUR & MILLS

RE: NYS Tourism Protection Act Re-Designation for 2012-2013

WHEREAS, the promotion, development and expansion of the tourist travel, report and vacation business are vital and necessary concerns to the citizens of Erie County, since such tourism business strengthens the county's vital and necessary opportunities, and promotes the general welfare of county residents; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Legislature, in 1977, recognizing the value of local and state involvement and assistance in tourism promotion, enacted the NYS Tourism Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, this Tourism Protection Act authorizes the state's Department of Commerce to initiate a program of matching state funds for non-profit tourist promotion agencies designated by county legislative bodies as agencies authorized to apply for and receive grants for recognized media advertising programs; and

WHEREAS, Visit Buffalo Niagara (formerly named the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau), a non-profit tourism promotion association, has begun to bring together many new segments of the county, servicing the tourism industry in a coordinated effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Visit Buffalo Niagara, having been designated as the authorized tourism promotion agency for Erie County in 1974, is hereby re-designated as such for 2012-2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby request that the Visit Buffalo Niagara make the appropriate application to the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Commerce for state matching funds to assist said tourism promotion agency in the financing of a recognized media advertising program, as defined and set forth in the NYS Tourism Protection Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that officials of Visit Buffalo Niagara are hereby requested to appear at a future meeting of the Legislature's Community Enrichment Committee to discuss the status of the aforementioned state matching fund grants and other matters relating to the furtherance of tourist activities within Erie County and Western New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Commissioner of the NYS Department of Economic Development, 30 South Pearl St., Albany, NY 12245; Dottie Gallagher-Cohen and Leah Mueller of Visit Buffalo Niagara, 617 Main St., Suite 200, Buffalo, NY 14203-1496; NYS Assembly Tourism, Arts and Sports Development Committee, LOB 712, Albany, NY 12248; NYS Senate Tourism, Recreation and Sports Development Committee, LOB 310, Albany, NY 12248; and to Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.