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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 4, 2013

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

**Re: New York Department of Environmental Conservation Grant: Urban and
Community Forestry Grant**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry authorizing the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into the necessary agreements to accept grant funding for the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has granted Erie County \$24,000 to implement this project.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/med
Enclosure

cc: Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: New York Department of Environmental Conservation Grant: Urban and
Community Forestry Grant
Date: January 25, 2013

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Parks Department) authorizing the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into the necessary agreements to accept \$24,000 in grant funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to commence an "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory." This grant will be used to assist the Parks Department in preparing for a tree management plan. This work will also assist the Parks Department in identifying ash trees in order to address concerns related to the emerald ash borer, an invasive species which has been identified in the northern part of Erie County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This funding does not require any County funds, but does require an in-kind match, which will be provided through Erie County staff, equipment, and volunteer time contributed to the project. The NYSDEC grant will provide \$24,000 of the funding for the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory."

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of this resolution will enable Erie County to access the \$24,000 in funding to complete the tree inventory project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project complements the Parks Department's Master Plan and will provide long-term support as it will enable the Parks Department to prioritize its work. Como Lake Park and Akron Falls Park have been prioritized for this project as they are in the northern area of Erie County where infestations of Emerald Ash Borer have been identified.

The tree inventories will be completed by a contractor as this will be the most cost effective and efficient way to complete the survey due to a shortage of staff and GPS equipment. The contractor will be selected through a formal Request for Proposals process. The inventories will identify all trees located on maintained areas (mowed) on the properties, as well as risk trees located on the margins the maintained areas. If the budget allows, risk trees located along maintained paths/public trails in natural areas in the park will also be inventoried. In addition to the trees in the maintained areas of the parks, the contractor will also complete a sample tree inventory of the natural or forested areas. Random sample plots of the forested areas will be inventoried in order to have a better understanding of their composition and management needs.

The contractor will also work with the GIS office in the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning prior to the inventory to manage data to best suit the County's GIS system. The Erie County GIS office will develop an editable online mapping web site for the County's Parks Department to use to access and update the tree inventory data. Once the inventories have been completed by the contractors, the County will work with volunteers, both students and community groups, to supplement the tree inventories with additional useful information. Due to the nature of student schedules, the project schedule is planned for three years in order to maximize volunteer involvement and community education.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without approval of the attached resolution, Erie County will be unable to access the \$24,000 in grant funding earmarked for the tree inventory project.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive or Deputy County Executive will enter into the necessary agreements to receive \$24,000 in grant funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Department of Park, Recreation and Forestry will seek competitive bids in order to contract with a firm to conduct the tree inventory.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY**

**Re: New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation Grant:
Urban and Community Forestry Grant**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature authorized the Department of Parks Recreation, and Forestry to apply for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Urban & Community Forestry grant in a resolution passed on June 7, 2012 (Comm. 11E-6 (2012)); and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation awarded Erie County an Urban & Community Forestry grant of \$24,000 to complete "The Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry has a need for tree inventories at Como Lake Park and Akron Falls Park; and

WHEREAS, the required in-kind match for this award, in the form of professional and volunteer services, will be provided by the following higher education partners: Daemen College and Medaille Collage, as well as by the Erie County Department of Parks Recreation and Forestry and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or Deputy County Executive is authorized to enter an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for assistance with the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project in an amount not to exceed \$24,000 in grant resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the revenue from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the "Erie County Parks Tree Inventory" project is hereby appropriated in a grant account in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Business Area 164, Fund 110) as follows:

Erie County Tree Inventory
Grant Period: 11/15/2012-11/14/2015
SAP Grant 164EPTI1115

REVENUE:

Account Description

Current Budget

409000	State Aid Revenue – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	\$24,000.
TOTAL REVENUE		\$24,000
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
	Account Description	Budget
516020	Professional Service Contract	<u>\$24,000</u>
		\$24,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		\$24,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive’s Office; the Comptroller’s Office; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, and the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, Rath Building, 10th Floor.