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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. LYNNE DIXON
LEGISLATOR
DISTRICT 9

January 31, 2013

Hon. Thomas J. Mazur
Government Affairs Committee Chairman
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Request for a Purchasing Procedure Review

Dear Legislator Mazur:

As you are aware, Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw recently identified the purchase of a \$4600 80" television by the Division of Buildings and Grounds, for use in County Executive Mark Poloncarz's office. We have since learned that the County Executive needed the new television as part of a secure video conferencing system necessary for secure communications.

Despite my personal opinions on the necessity of this costly expenditure, I think it highlights the need for the Legislature to review the County's current purchasing procedures.

Before I took office, I recall then County Executive Chris Collins' administration purchased a refrigerator to replace the one in his office that no longer worked. Then Comptroller Mark Poloncarz criticized the \$415.99 purchase, declaring that it was improper because it lacked a written justification to the Comptroller's office, which would have "satisfied the current county purchase policy." He even went as far to say that because the proper procedure wasn't followed, that Mr. Collins should reimburse the taxpayers for the cost from his personal funds.

I am interested in learning more about the purchasing procedure that Mr. Poloncarz referenced in his April 13, 2009 letter to Mr. Collins. I am interested to see if the procedures he referenced were followed when his administration purchased their new television. In addition to investigating this most recent purchase that has come under scrutiny, I think it is important for us to lead an "on the record" discussion of what the policies and procedures are for county purchasing, particularly when the cost of items being purchased is below the threshold that requires prior legislative approval.

It is my hope that Purchasing Director Vallie Ferraraccio and Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw can join us at our next Government Affairs Committee meeting to discuss Erie County's policies and procedures relating to purchasing. Please let me know if you are supportive of extending this invitation and hosting this very important discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne M. Dixon', written in a cursive style.

LYNNE M. DIXON

cc: Hon. Stefan I. Mychajliw
Hon. Betty Jean Grant
Ms. Vallie Ferraraccio