



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 4, 2013

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: License Agreement  
Black Rock Canal Park - Barkyard  
City of Buffalo**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution authorizing the execution of a license agreement for the Black Rock Canal Park "Barkyard", in the City of Buffalo, between Erie County and the Northwest Buffalo Community Center. This license agreement is for operation and maintenance of a public dog park within the Black Rock Canal Park area.

Should your honorable body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Troy Schinzel 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/cp  
Enclosure

cc: Maria R. Whyte  
Troy P. Schinzel

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
From: Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry  
Re: Execution of a License Agreement for the Black Rock Canal Park Barkyard  
City of Buffalo, Erie County  
Date: February 5, 2013

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### **SUMMARY**

Erie County is embarking on the creation of major improvements to the Black Rock Canal Park. The improvements include the creation of the first dedicated dog area within a County park.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct financial impact on Erie County. The license agreement requires all costs associated with standard maintenance and necessary insurances be paid for by the licensee.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

It is necessary that this approval be granted, so that the Northwest Buffalo Community Center ("Center") can obtain the necessary insurances required and start fund raising for operation costs associated with the Barkyard.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Black Rock Canal Park, formerly known as the Ontario Street Boat Launch, is located along the Niagara River and is in need of much repair and updating. The Barkyard will implement an inviting environment for dogs to run without a leash while at the same time protecting the general public. This is the first dog park within a County park.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The gates to the Barkyard will be locked due to the lack of provisions for specialty maintenance with the County Parks Department.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION**

A license agreement will be executed and the Barkyard will be opened to the public as soon as possible after the completion of its construction.

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

**RE: Award of Barkyard License Agreement  
Black Rock Canal Park Improvements Project  
City of Buffalo**

**WHEREAS, the County is embarking on a \$1.8 million multi-phased improvement project to Black Rock Canal Park which includes a new dog park "Barkyard" area; and**

**WHEREAS, the County would like to open the Barkyard as soon as possible after completion of construction; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED, that the County Executive be authorized and is hereby directed to execute an agreement with the Northwest Buffalo Community Center for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Barkyard dog park within the County's Black Rock Canal Park in the City of Buffalo; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that costs associated with the license agreement will be the responsibility of the Northwest Buffalo Community Center; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Office of the County Executive; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the Comptroller's Office and the County Attorney.**