



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 20, 2012

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

**RE: Renaming of the Erie County Ontario Street Boat Launch and
Cornelius Creek Park to Black Rock Canal Park**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution to rename the Erie County Ontario Street Boat Launch and adjacent Cornelius Creek Parks to be called the Black Rock Canal Park.

The name change is being requested by neighborhood groups involved with the improvements to this Erie County Park.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

MARK C. POLONCARZ
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning and the Department of Parks,
Recreation & Forestry
Re: Renaming of the Erie County Ontario Street Boat Launch and Cornelius Creek
Park to Black Rock Canal Park
Date: January 6, 2012

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached resolution authorizing the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry to change the name of the existing Ontario Street Boat Launch and adjacent Cornelius Creek Park to the Black Rock Canal Park.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact for the changing of the park(s) name.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Park is commonly known in the community as the Black Rock Canal Park. Fund raising applications and funding contracts obtained through the efforts of neighborhood organizations have utilized the name Black Rock Canal Park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The representatives from the Department of Environment & Planning and the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry have been working with neighborhood organizations to design and implement improvements to this waterfront asset for the past year. With the assistance of those neighborhood organizations, the Department of Environment & Planning has received over \$1.8 million in federal and state grants for improvements to this County Park. The Park Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from neighborhood groups has requested the name change as a better representation of the location.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

There are no consequences of a negative action.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Planning, will change the name of the park.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY**

**RE: Renaming of the Erie County Ontario
Street Boat Launch and Cornelius
Creek Park to Black Rock Canal Park**

WHEREAS, the parks currently known as the Ontario Street Boat Launch and Cornelius Creek Park are County Parks in the Block Rock and Riverside neighborhoods within the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, the Parks are commonly known in the community as the Black Rock Canal Park; and

WHEREAS, a community group known as the Black Rock Canal Park Canal Steering Committee has been assisting the Department of Environment & Planning in fund raising efforts for physical improvements to the Park; and

WHEREAS, a substantial amount of funding has been secured for the physical improvements to the Park; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Planning and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry have been working with the Black Rock Canal Park Steering Committee to develop a new master plan for the Park and to implement the improvements indicated in said plan; and

WHEREAS, the Phase 1 construction of improvements to the Parks are scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Steering Committee has requested that the combined name of the Parks be officially changed to Black Rock Canal Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Parks currently known as the Ontario Street Boat Launch and the Cornelius Creek Park be now known as the Black Rock Canal Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Department of Environment and Planning and Department Parks Recreation and Forestry install appropriate signage of the name of the Park as part of the physical improvements project to the Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry; and the County Attorney.