

Suspension



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 6, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Erie County Medical Examiner Staffing

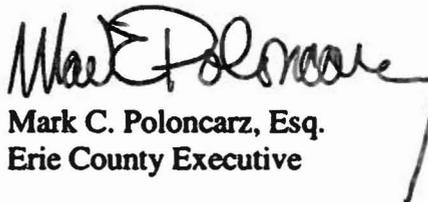
Dear Honorable Members:

As the primary source of medical investigation in Erie County and also several other counties operating under agreements, the Erie County Medical Examiner's office plays a critical role in helping bring closure to the families of the deceased to working with law enforcement to bring criminals to justice.

Following an extensive, months-long recruitment process, the Medical Examiner's Office has identified a highly qualified candidate for the position of Associate Chief Medical Examiner, job group 22, who will be available to start working on July 15th. We are requesting authorization to create the position with a starting salary at a variable minimum of step 4. Funding for this position shall be made available through the deletion of a currently vacant Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, job group 24, step 5. There is no increase to the 2012 Budget.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein, MD. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Erie County Medical Examiner Staffing
Date: June 5, 2012

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to delete the vacant position of Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, job group 24, step 5, and create a position of Associate Chief Medical Examiner, job group 22, step 4 to be filled by a recently recruited highly qualified candidate.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County dollars are required for this request. Funding is available through the deletion of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner. The vacant title is budgeted at \$167,635 and the new title would be budgeted at \$129,453 (annualized). If approved, the reallocations will realize a net savings to the County (annualized) of approximately \$38,000.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Medical Examiner's Office preforms hundreds of autopsies a year, and is a crucial component of the criminal justice system, and the County's public health apparatus. It is incumbent upon Erie County staff the office with competent, qualified forensic pathologists.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Medical Examiner's Office has been without a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for almost a year, leaving the office with just 1 Chief Medical Examiner and 1 Associate Chief Medical Examiner in addition to 1 fee-for-service pathologist. After an extensive recruiting effort, the Department of Health has identified a candidate interested in joining the Medical Examiner's team at the Associate Chief Level, provided we offer a variable minimum.

Having a third medical examiner will lead to a reduction in the county's utilization of our fee-for-service pathologist, although we will still require such services intermittently.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Health will be unable to properly manage the Medical Examiner's Office.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management and the Department of Personnel to implement this request.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: Erie County Medical Examiner Staffing

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health provides forensic medical services through the Office of the Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, the need for expert pathological skills is critical for the function of the medical examiner's office; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Medical Examiner's office provides crucial support and determinations to the law enforcement community and

WHEREAS, the position of Deputy Chief Medical Examiner is currently vacant and recruitment has been unsuccessful, leaving the Medical Examiner's Office with only 2 full time medical examiners; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Department of Health is requesting the creation of an Associate Chief Medical Examiner at a variable minimum; and

WHEREAS, funding for these changes will be made available by the deletion of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner with a net savings to the County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one full time position of Associate Chief Medical Examiner, Job Group 22, (B-100 #6903) and to hire at a variable minimum hiring level of Step 4 (annual salary \$129,453); and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is also provided to delete the vacant position of Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Job Group 24, Step 5 (annual salary \$167,635) in order to fund said addition; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Division of Budget and Management, and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.