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March 15, 2012

The Honorable Lynn M. Marinelli
Erie County Legislature, District 3
1701 Hertel Avenue, Lower
Buffalo, NY 14216

Dear Legislator Marinelli: *Lynn*

I am pleased to be able to share with you this recent correspondence from Jeffrey Cannell, the Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education and Acting State Librarian, regarding the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System's efforts to become a special legislative district public library.

As you'll see from Mr. Cannell's letter, the Library System's Library District Initiative is aligned

1. "with the Board of Regents statewide policy for library services," and
2. "with other State government initiatives that encourages the voluntary consolidation of local governments in order to achieve both improved services for the public as well as future cost efficiencies and economies of scale."

It is my hope that you will review Mr. Cannell's letter with an open mind regarding our efforts. Becoming a library district will replace 23 separate boards of trustees with one elected board and will replace 23 separate hiring authorities with one. The Library's governance and hiring processes will be streamlined.

Just as important will be the Library's financial stability. By having the public vote on and approve the Library's budget through community based funding, the Library's financial future will be secured.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski at (716) 858-7180.

Sincerely,

Jack
Jack Connors, Chair
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees

JC/mjb
Enc.



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March 6, 2012

Jack Connors, Chair
Buffalo & Erie County Library Board of Trustees
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Mr. Connors:

You have asked the New York State Library to confirm information about the current governance structures of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (BECPL) and its 22 independent member libraries. As described in more detail within this letter, the State Library confirms that BECPL and each of its member libraries are currently established as separate and independent legal corporate governmental entities.

The State Library is also pleased to confirm that BECPL's proposed plan for the creation of a new countywide special legislative district public library for Erie County is aligned with the Board of Regents statewide policy for library services. Regents policy supports the voluntary formation of public library districts statewide, except in New York City, which is served by consolidated library systems that provide library services for every resident. In addition, the BECPL proposed plan is also aligned with other State government initiatives that encourage the voluntary consolidation of local governments in order to achieve both improved services for the public as well as future cost efficiencies and economies of scale.

Governance Structure of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (BECPL) is currently a municipal public library established to serve the residents of Erie County. While the majority of BECPL's local public income is provided by Erie County, the library is legally established as a separate and independent education corporation and is not a department of the county and is not part of the county government.

As a municipal public library, BECPL is governed by a single Board of Trustees with 15 members. Of the 15 Board members, 10 are appointed by the County Executive and five are nominated by Buffalo's Mayor. All BECPL Trustee appointments are subject to the approval of the County Legislature.

In addition to operating the Central Library and the 8 branches located in the City of Buffalo, BECPL also manages the county funding that supports the staffing and operations of the 22 independent local public libraries in 28 locations that are located outside of the City of Buffalo. BECPL currently manages the county funding that supports the operations of all 37 library outlets located throughout Erie County.

Public and Association Libraries in Erie County

Library Name	Community Name	Type of Library	Service Area	Number of Outlets*	Population Served (2010 Census)	Number of Library Board Positions (Maximum Possible)
Amherst Public Library	Amherst	Public Municipal	Town	4	122366	5
Angola Public Library	Angola	Public Municipal	Village	1	2127	9
Aurora Town Public Library	East Aurora	Public Municipal	Town	1	13782	7
Boston Free Library	Boston	Association	Town	1	8023	25
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library	Buffalo	Public Municipal	County	9	919040	15
Cheektowaga Public Library	Cheektowaga	Public Municipal	Town	2	88226	5
City Of Tonawanda Public Library	Tonawanda	Public Municipal	City	1	15130	5
Clarence Public Library	Clarence	Public Municipal	Town	1	30673	7
Eden Library	Eden	Public Municipal	Town	1	7688	11
Elma Public Library	Elma	Public Municipal	Town	1	11317	7
Ewell Free Library	Alden	Association	Village	1	2605	5
Grand Island Memorial Library	Grand Island	Public Municipal	Town	1	20374	5
Hamburg Public Library	Hamburg	Public Municipal	Town	2	56936	5
Lackawanna Public Library	Lackawanna	Public Municipal	City	1	18141	9
Lancaster Public Library	Lancaster	Public Municipal	Town	1	41604	6
Marilla Free Library	Marilla	Association	Town	1	5327	9
Newstead Public Library	Akron	Public Municipal	Town	1	8594	5
Orchard Park Public Library	Orchard Park	Public Municipal	Town	1	29054	5
The Hulbert Library of the Town Of Concord	Springville	Public Municipal	Town	1	8494	11
Town Of Collins Public Library	Collins	Public Municipal	Town	1	6601	11
Town Of North Collins Public Library	North Collins	Public Municipal	Town	1	3523	11
Town Of Tonawanda Public Library	Kenmore	Public Municipal	Town	2	73567	15
West Seneca Public Library	West Seneca	Public Municipal	Town	1	44711	5

Based on the 2010 Annual Report for Public Libraries