

March 14, 2013

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 5

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR GRANT PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following item is hereby received and filed:

a. COMM. 5E-1 (2013)

**GRANT:** "Copy of Article Titled "Residents Deserve Seats at the Table"  
(6-0)

2. INTRO 4-8 (2013)

**HOGUES, GRANT, MARINELLI,  
LOUGHRAN, LORIGO & RATH AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, the Economic Opportunity Panel (EOP) was established by St. John Baptist Church and the University at Buffalo to formulate public policy relating to the neighborhoods that are proximate to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, along with assessing economic opportunities for the neighborhood and ever-expanding Medical Campus; and

WHEREAS, the EOP also advises the Medical Campus on issues that are of keen interest to neighboring residents and businesses, yet it is remarkable that the composition of the EOP does not allow for their voices to be heard due to the fact that the panel lacks representation from neighborhood residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, in particular, Buffalo's Fruit Belt neighborhood and the residents of McCarley Gardens would very much like to participate in the discussions and crafting of recommendations that will ensue from the EOP, given its stated mission to address workforce development and economic opportunity in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, McCarley Gardens is located within the borders of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and features 149 apartments on 15 acres, as well as small businesses that have also expressed an interest in participation in the important work of the EOP; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities that evolve from the development of the Medical Campus can provide a step up to the middle class for these residents, yet they have unfortunately been left out of the process; and

WHEREAS, American Democracy is participatory in nature, and together with Home Rule are basic tenets of our democratic process, providing for self-determination and community input in public policy formation, especially when such policy affects people's lives as well as their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the omission of Fruit Belt residents on the EOP has created unrest in the neighborhood surrounding the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, where broad community consensus is a necessary and critical component for maximizing the Medical Campus' full economic potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature fully supports the continued unfettered development/redevelopment of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and nearby community, however, this Body also declares it essential that neighborhood stakeholders be a part of any development or advisory committee formulating policy or planning for the neighborhood; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature respectfully calls upon the leadership of St. John Baptist Church and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus to reconsider the Economic Opportunity Panel in relation to providing inclusion of nearby residents and businesses of the Fruit Belt and McCarley Gardens in its work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in order to avoid the possibility of litigation, that this Legislative Body encourages residents' membership on the EOP, and/or any other committee charged with formulating public policy that would impact this Buffalo neighborhood, to include in its membership representatives of the McCarley Gardens Tenant Association and the Fruit Belt Housing Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Legislature believes that an important step to community engagement would be for this Honorable Body's Economic Development Committee to invite all stakeholders to a future meeting of the committee to discuss this matter in an effort to and reach consensus and a positive outcome for everyone involved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Matthew Enstice, Director of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus; Rev. Michael Chapman, Pastor of St. John Baptist Church; John DellaContrada of the University at Buffalo; Lorraine Chambley, president of the McCarley Gardens Tenant Association; Veronica Hemphill-Nichols, founder of the Fruit Belt Housing Task Force, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

(6-0)

3. COMM. 5E-7 (2013)

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the replacement of the existing exterior lighting fixtures at Old County Hall will re-light the building with new technology and showcase its historical nature during the night hours as well as provide a security and deterrent function; and

WHEREAS, your Honorable Body has previously authorized the County Executive to enter in a General Architectural/Engineering services agreement with the firm of Ram-Tech Engineers of Buffalo, P.C. for providing professional design and construction document services on Erie County projects; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive is requesting authorization to issue an Agreement Amendment to the firm of Ram-Tech Engineers of Buffalo, P.C. for providing design and construction document services for Old County Hall exterior lighting project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to execute an Agreement Amendment with the firm of Ram-Tech Engineers of Buffalo, P.C. for providing professional design and engineering services for Old County Hall exterior lighting project for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, including reimburseables; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller's Office be authorized to make payment for all the above from SAP Project A.12005– 2012 – Countywide Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing Improvements (Countywide) for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Department of Public Works, Commissioner's Office and one copy each to the Office of the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, and the Office of the Comptroller.  
(6-0)

**THOMAS A. LOUGHRAN  
CHAIR**