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## County of Erie

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COMPTROLLER

December 21, 2010

FM

Hon. Christopher C. Collins  
Erie County Executive  
95 Franklin Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Failure to Issue Required Monthly Budget Monitoring Reports**

County Executive Collins:

As you are aware, your Division of Budget and Management's ("Budget") has failed to issue and provide the County Legislature, my office and the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority ("ECFSA") a monthly budget monitoring report ("BMR") for nearly four (4) months.

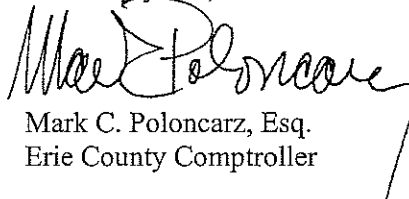
Specifically, Budget last issued a BMR on August 31, 2010 for the period ending July 2010. Since then Budget has not issued a BMR for August, September, October and November 2010. Given the importance of timely and accurate BMRs – and their critical (or conspicuous) absence in 2003-2004 leading to the "Red and Green Budget" crisis – the Administration's failure to issue BMRs is troubling.

Your failure to issue BMRs for many months raises issues concerning your administration's transparency and openness. It is also a significant departure from your own actions in 2008 and 2009 in issuing BMRs in the final months of each fiscal year.

My office recognizes that the County is trending towards ending 2010 with a significant surplus due primarily to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage ("FMAP") stimulus assistance. In fact, the FMAP assistance from the federal government is nearly \$12 million more than budgeted and totals over \$44 million. This revenue source, when combined with better than budgeted sales tax results, in all likelihood led you to publicly state that you expect a 2010 possible surplus of \$14 million. However, your administration has failed to issue required BMRs that would further define the amount of a possible surplus.

Accordingly, I request that you immediately issue and file BMRs with the County Legislature, ECFSA and my office.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Comptroller

MCP/nr

cc: Erie County Legislature  
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority