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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

OPEN

January 4, 2011

Immediate Consideration Requested

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Personnel Adjustment

Honorable Members:

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize the re-creation of four full-time positions in the 2011 budget of the Erie County Department of Health.

The Erie County Department of Health requires the re-creation of the positions of Special Assistant-Commissioner of Health JG X, Chief County Toxicologist JG XVI and an Assistant Toxicologist JG IX in the Medical Examiners' Office, and an Associate Public Health Engineer -Environmental Health JG XV, to efficiently maintain professional and administrative functions of the department.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Health Department. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Personnel Adjustments
Date: January 4, 2011

SUMMARY

To authorize the re-creation of four full-time positions in the 2011 budget of the Department of Health.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None. Sufficient funds available in 2011 Adopted Budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Department of Health requires to re-create the positions of Special Assistant-Commissioner of Health JG X, Chief County Toxicologist JG XVI, Assistant Toxicologist JG IX, and Associate Public Health Engineer JG XV to efficiently maintain professional and administrative functions of the Erie County Department of Health.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We have to maintain professional and administrative responsibilities for the Office of the Commissioner.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

We will be unable to maintain services necessary for the operations of the department of Health.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will follow appropriate steps necessary to fill the positions.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: Personnel Adjustments
Health Department

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health requires the re-creation of four positions to address a major void in the professional and administrative operations of the department; and

WHEREAS, in order to fill this void and efficiently provide required services, it is necessary to re-create the positions of Special Assistant-Commissioner of Health JG X, Chief County Toxicologist JG XVI, Assistant Toxicologist JG IX , and an Associate Public Health Engineer JG XV; and

WHEREAS, due to the budgetary restructuring that was implemented within the department, the position of Special Assistant-Commissioner of Health is necessary to efficiently oversee all administrative functions associated with the Commissioner's office and to provide support to departmental divisions, combined with the recently added responsibilities of processing Freedom of Information requests, and insuring both HIPAA and contract compliance activities are met; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health maintains a Public Health Engineering office that is responsible for:

- Regulatory oversight of public drinking water supplies
- Plan review/approval and permitting of subdivision water and sewer construction projects
- Plan review/approval and permitting of commercial and residential private sewage construction,

and

WHEREAS, the position of Associate Public Health Engineer (JG XV) has historically provided the professional engineer (PE) license and supervisory responsibility of the Public Health Engineering office; and

WHEREAS, the re-creation of this position will enhance the ability of the Department to assess and respond to threats to public drinking water supplies, will positively impact economic development across Erie County by enhancing approvals for commercial and residential construction projects; and

WHEREAS, the Builder's Association has requested the department to increase Plan Review fees from the current rate of \$50 to \$100 to help fund this position so that the current turn around time for these reviews remains; and

WHEREAS, the need to re-create the positions of Chief County Toxicologist JG XVI, and Assistant Toxicologist JG IX , became necessary when it was recently discovered that the Toxicology Laboratory within the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office would be in jeopardy of losing accreditation from the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and the New York State Commission on Forensic Science; and

WHEREAS, such action would seriously diminish the Laboratory's credibility in criminal court proceedings which would ultimately jeopardize criminal investigations and prosecutions; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Health Department desires to fill these positions with qualified and experienced professionals; and

WHEREAS, funds have been identified in the Adopted 2011 Budget,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the positions of Special Assistant-Commissioner of Health JG X, Chief County Toxicologist JG XVI, Assistant Toxicologist JG IX, and Associate Public Health Engineer JG XV are hereby created; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for these positions is as follows:

Public Health Division

	Current	Change	Revised
500000 Full Time Salary	\$3,767,609	+\$42,713	\$3,810,322
502000 Fringe Benefits	2,588,709	+ 21,337	2,610,046
516020 Prof Svc Cont Fee	1,045,008	- 303,779	741,229
405540 State Aid	1,310,166	+ 15,377	1,325,543

Lab Division

500000 Full Time Salary	\$3,146,151	+\$82,682	\$3,228,833
502000 Fringe Benefits	2,010,575	+ 41,341	2,051,916
406560 State Aid	1,222,916	+ 26,166	1,248,582
416030 Realty Sub Div.	15,000	+ 10,000	25,000

Medical Examiner

500000 Full Time Salary	\$1,729,755	+\$146,709	\$1,876,464
502000 Fringe Benefits	1,042,226	+ 73,355	1,115,581
405180 State Aid	818,328	+ 52,815	871,143

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize an increase in Plan Review Fees from the current rate of \$50 to \$100 effective upon legislative approval to offset the expense associated with the reinstatement of the Associate Public Health Engineer position so that the current turn around time for these reviews remains; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Dr. Anthony J. Billittier, IV, Commissioner in the Erie County Department of Health, 9th Floor, Rath Building.