



PARTNERSHIP FOR THE
PUBLIC GOOD

PS

December 16, 2010

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St.
Buffalo NY 14202

PPG
Board of Directors
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Re: Community Corrections Advisory Board

Karima Amin
Aaron Bartley
Allison Duwe
Rahwa Ghirmatzion
Sean Lora-Hetzner
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Legislators:

The Partnership for the Public Good unites 92 Partner organizations to research and advance good public policies for the Buffalo region (a list of Partners is enclosed). Each year our Partners vote on a Community Agenda with their top priorities for the coming year. The first item on our 2011 Community Agenda (copy enclosed) is:

Improve Conditions at the Holding Center

Erie County should improve conditions at the Holding Center by

- a. improving the screening and treatment of inmates with mental health or substance abuse problems;
- b. appointing true community representatives, including inmate advocates, to the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Holding Center and using the CAB to make meaningful changes.

Many of our Partners, including Prisoners Are People Too, the Erie County Prisoners Rights Coalition, the National Lawyers Guild, and Hispanics United, have been working on Holding Center issues and were the first to call for the restoration of a Community Advisory Board.

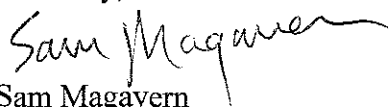
On behalf of them and all our Partners, we would like to recommend that you appoint Kenneth Colon, Job Developer with Hispanics United of Buffalo, as the Member "employed at a non-profit organization that is involved in alternatives to incarceration." Mr. Colon is uniquely qualified to serve. He supervises the Community Service program at HUB, in which hundreds of people work each year as an alternative to incarceration.

Mr. Colon is also a member of the ReEntry Task Force and has worked closely with the Buffalo Halfway House on job readiness and other needs for former

inmates. As a former inmate himself, Mr. Colon has become a trusted advisor to countless people doing community service or re-entering the community. We hope that you will appoint him to the Advisory Board.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Magavern". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

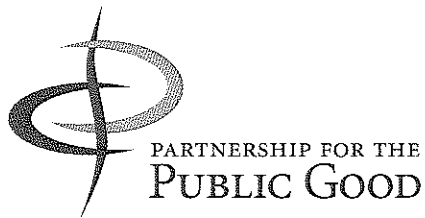
Sam Magavern
Co-Director
Partnership for the Public Good



**Partnership for the Public Good: 92 Partner Organizations
December 6, 2010**

1. Affordable Housing Clinic, UB Law School
2. Belmont Shelter Corporation
3. Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo
4. Buffalo Car Share
5. Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers
6. Buffalo First!
7. Buffalo Indicators Project
8. Buffalo Green Power
9. Buffalo ReUse
10. Buffalo West Side Environmental Defense Fund
11. Buffalo Urban League
12. Canadiana Preservation Society
13. Catholic Charities of Buffalo
14. Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement, Daemen College
15. Center for Urban Studies, SUNY Buffalo
16. Church of the Nativity UCC – Community Outreach Committee
17. Citizen Action
18. Citizen Regional Transit Corp.
19. Civil Service Employees Association Local 003
20. Clean Air Coalition
21. Coalition for Economic Justice
22. Committee for Dropout Prevention
23. Communication Workers of America, Mercy United 1133
24. Communication Workers of America, Local 1168
25. Communication Workers of America, District 1, AFL-CIO
26. Community Action Organization of Erie County
27. Community Economic Development Clinic, UB Law School
28. Cornell University ILR School – Buffalo
29. Creating Assets, Savings & Hope (CASH)
30. Creighton, Pearce, Johnsen & Giroux
31. Curtis Urban Farm Foundation
32. E-Media Studios
33. Erie County Prisoner's Rights Coalition
34. Everywoman Opportunity Center
35. Fargo Estate Neighborhood Association
36. First Presbyterian Church
37. Gerard Place Housing Development Fund Company, Inc.
38. Grassroots Gardens
39. Green Gold Development Corporation
40. Green Options Buffalo

41. Groundwork Buffalo
42. Habitat for Humanity - Buffalo
43. Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center
44. Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.
45. Hispanics United of Buffalo, Inc.
46. Homeless Alliance of Western New York
47. International Institute of Buffalo
48. Journey's End Refugee Services
49. Latin American Cultural Association (El Buen Amigo)
50. Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo
51. Learning Disabilities Association of WNY
52. Lipsitz & Ponterio
53. Maritime Charter School, Ships Ahoy Sailing School
54. Massachusetts Avenue Project
55. Masten Block Club Coalition
56. Matt Urban H.O.P.E. Center
57. MicroBiz Buffalo
58. Mothers of Those in Crisis
59. National Lawyers Guild (Buffalo Chapter)
60. Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Harris Hill Parish
61. Network of Religious Communities
62. Presbytery of Western New York
63. Pride Center of Western New York
64. Prisoners are People Too
65. Public Accountability Initiative
66. PUSH Buffalo
67. Respiratory and Environmental Consultants
68. Sisters of Social Service
69. Social Justice Committee – St. Joseph's University Parish
70. Squeaky Wheel
71. Stop the Violence Coalition
72. Sustainable Earth Solutions
73. Teaching and Restoring Youth (TRY)
74. True Bethel Baptist Church
75. Ujima Company, Inc.
76. United Auto Workers – WNY CAP Council Region 9
77. Upstate New York Transplant Services
78. Urban Community Corporation
79. Urban Roots Community Garden Cooperative
80. VOICE Buffalo
81. Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and Western New York
82. WNY Apollo Alliance
83. WNY Area Labor Federation
84. WNY Climate Action Coalition
85. WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health
86. WNY Peace Center
87. West Side Community Collaborative
88. West Side Community Services
89. West Side Neighborhood Housing Services
90. Women, Children, and Social Justice Clinic, UB Law School
91. Workforce Development Institute -- Western Region
92. Working Families Party – WNY Chapter



Community Agenda 2011

1. Improve Conditions at the Holding Center

Erie County should improve conditions at the Holding Center by

- a. improving the screening and treatment of inmates with mental health or substance abuse problems;
- b. appointing true community representatives, including inmate advocates, to the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Holding Center and using the CAB to make meaningful changes.

2. Ensure Language Access for City and County Residents

The City of Buffalo and Erie County should form Limited English Proficiency plans to comply with Title VI and ensure that free interpreting and translation are widely available and that people with limited English proficiency get equal access to government programs and services.

3. Promote Neighborhood Health through Community Health Workers

The City of Buffalo, Erie County, and New York State should join to

- a. launch concentrated initiatives in two target communities to focus existing that address social determinants of health such as housing, education, violence prevention, built environment, and health and social services;
- b. create additional resources for concentrated and holistic approaches to individual and community level well-being.

Health should be addressed as a quality of life issue, with Community Health Workers who are of and from the target neighborhoods informing and implementing this process.

4. Establish and Promote Benefit Corporations

New York State should pass A11498B to authorize benefit corporations, which work on the triple bottom line of environmental sustainability, social benefits, and monetary profit. State and local economic development entities, such as IDAs and urban renewal authorities, should promote benefit corporations with their subsidies and programs.

5. Reform Erie County Cultural Funding

Erie County, in conjunction with arts and cultural organizations, should develop a citizen-led cultural plan for the Greater Buffalo region that promotes broader economic development needs and opportunities and should establish an ongoing citizen-led process for the distribution of the public's annual arts, cultural and library funding through the County.

6. Create a Tonawanda Air Pilot Project

DEC and EPA should implement a pilot program in Tonawanda working with companies to invest in technology which would reduce air emissions.

7. Reform New York State's Subsidy Programs

New York State should reform its subsidy programs, including Industrial Development Agencies, to ensure that economic development dollars are spent wisely and with maximum community input. Reform legislation should include job quality standards (living and prevailing wages), local hiring, green building requirements, anti-pirating and recapture mechanisms, and anti-sprawl provisions. The six IDAs in Erie County should be merged into one countywide authority.

8. Require a Community Benefit Agreement for Erie Canal Redevelopment

The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation should sign a community benefit agreement for Canal Side requiring:

- a. an inclusive community process to shape the project,
- b. quality jobs,
- c. environmentally friendly building and operations,
- d. locally-owned and minority-and-women-owned businesses,
- e. mixed income housing, and
- f. a building and site design appropriate to the location.

9. Fully Implement Complete Street Laws in the City and County

The City of Buffalo and Erie County should develop transparent and public processes to institutionalize their Complete Streets Ordinances – requiring the accommodation of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users and green infrastructure – in all public works projects:

- a. move policy to procedure by creating and funding a Complete Streets Coordinator position to ensure the implementation and institutionalization of Complete Streets; and
- b. develop design guidelines and specifications to implement Complete Streets standards.

10. Build a Better, More Just Peace Bridge Project

- a. No Environmental Impact Statement should be approved by the Public Bridge Authority (PBA), Common Council, NYS Department of Transportation or Federal Highway Authority, that fails to:
 - i. Address the crisis of respiratory illness on Buffalo's West Side and fully examine the localized effects of the bridge through the development of a health impact study for the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods including effects during proposed construction;
 - ii. Avoid further encroachment and begin restoration of the surrounding historic neighborhoods and Front Park;
 - iii. Capitalize on opportunities for true economic development potential of a regional bi-national trade and transportation system for Western New York including a single entity to manage all Buffalo-Niagara crossings starting with revenue sharing among existing Authorities.
- b. Governor Cuomo and Attorney General Schniederman should appoint representatives to the PBA that adequately represent the WNY community's concerns and will pursue these goals

11. Green Buffalo by Design

The City of Buffalo should ensure that the Buffalo Green Code and land use plan meet high levels of environmental stewardship and equity:

- a. establish firm environmental justice principles in land use and infrastructure distribution;
- b. ensure future development follows smart growth principles and encourages use of mass transit, walking and biking;
- c. ensure opportunities for green infrastructure reuse and agricultural production.

12. Address Regional Vacancy Crisis

- a. New York State should enact land bank enabling legislation to streamline vacant property reclamation, maintenance and disposition;
- b. New York State should increase its commitment to Sustainable Neighborhoods program to spur revitalization in target communities;
- c. the City of Buffalo and the State should fund a vacant lot management program to create employment opportunities and community assets;
- d. the City should commit to clear and predictable processes for community access to City owned vacant properties.

13. Lead in Sustainable Neighborhood Development

New York State should advance the Green and Healthy Homes and Sustainable Communities movements by reforming the multiple weatherization programs administered by the Public Service Commission, NYS Housing and Community Renewal and NYSEERDA to ensure that they maximize the number of homes weatherized and create green jobs with living wages that are accessible to low-income people.

