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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 20, 2011

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

**RE: Department of Emergency Services
Homeland Security funding for citizen preparedness**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum and a proposed resolution from the Department of Emergency Services requesting that your Honorable Body authorize the utilization of homeland security funds to continue a contract with the American Red Cross to prepare residents of Erie County for natural or man-made disaster and emergency situations. Funding for the contact is currently available in the previously approved 2009-2012 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Emergency Services
Re: Homeland Security funding for citizen preparedness
Date: January 20, 2011

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached proposed resolution to utilize homeland security funds to contract with the American Red Cross to prepare residents of Erie County in natural or man-made disaster and emergency situations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the County. An extension to an existing contract will be signed with the American Red Cross in the amount of \$125,000 and will be funded through homeland security funds that are available in the 2009-2012 Urban Area Security Initiative grant (HS167UASIF0912).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Emergency Services would like to continue to prepare the residents of Erie County for natural or man-made disaster situations utilizing the Red Cross. This initiative began in 2008 and has shown to be successful.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a result of existing threats to homeland security, the federal government, through various State agencies, has allocated funds to be utilized to improve the ability of local governments to deal effectively with emergency and disaster situations. In order to properly prepare the residents of Erie County, Emergency Services would like to continue its efforts that were started back in 2008 by continuing to fund the American Red Cross.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without this Legislation the American Red Cross contract will not be extended and the original purpose of what these funds were intended, to better prepare the residents of Erie County during emergency and disaster related incidents, will not be completed.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will sign an extension to the original contract for \$125,000 and the Department of Emergency Services will work with the American Red Cross to prepare the residents of Erie County for natural or man-made disaster/emergency situations.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
"EMERGENCY SERVICES"

RE: Homeland Security funding
for citizen preparedness

WHEREAS, the County of Erie desires to continue to raise the level of awareness among individuals, families and businesses in the County on the importance of emergency preparedness through the "Community Disaster Education Initiative" (hereinafter "Initiative"); and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the Initiative will continue to consist of: (1) a Community Component to prepare individuals to establish a family disaster plan, (2) a Business Component to establish a workplace emergency plan, and (3) a Education Component to train students in emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Initiative and raising the level of awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness in the County may be best achieved through existing organizations who have experience in preparing for emergencies and educating their constituents regarding emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo branch of the American Red Cross ("Red Cross") has considerable experience in emergency preparedness and in responding to various emergencies and disaster; and

WHEREAS, the county will utilize \$125,000.00 of UASI 09 funding to continue this initiative,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Legislature authorizes the County Executive to enter into a contract with the American Red Cross for the purpose of assisting the County in this initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Erie shall utilize \$125,000 from currently available UASI 2009 funds, account 516020 grant HS167UASIF0912, for said contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these funds will be utilized to raise the awareness level of the importance of emergency preparedness in the County; and be it

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Emergency Services c/o Melissa Calhoun, the Department of Central Police Services, the County Comptroller, and the County Attorney.