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## ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE



**MARIA R. WHYTE**  
LEGISLATOR - 6<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT  
MAJORITY LEADER

Adam Perry, Chairman  
Erie County Reapportionment Commission  
c/o Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202

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March 15, 2011

Dear Mr. Perry:

As you may be aware, 10 years ago the county reapportionment process was an unmitigated disaster. My own party attempted to pass a ridiculous plan that divided communities and gerrymandered neighborhoods to such a degree that the County Executive vetoed the plan. As a result, there was a weighted voting system within the Legislature. Finally, after several law suits, the Legislature passed a somewhat improved plan and the weighted voting system was lifted.

It is my sincere hope that this year's process goes more smoothly. However, given the Commission's first meeting, I am concerned that we are heading down the same road. In particular, I am deeply troubled by the notion expressed by some members of the Commission that there is no work to be done in the month of March. I fear this demonstrates a lack of understanding about the complexity of the issues and wastes valuable time needed to educate the public about the process and obtain their feedback. While I appreciate the one meeting that has been scheduled on March 21, I am disappointed that it will occur downtown in the Erie County Legislature chambers and not out in the community.

Given these concerns, I am going to schedule additional public meetings on this topic. I will also encourage my colleagues to do the same. As each meeting is scheduled, I will notify you and the other members of the Commission to participate. My goal is to have a reapportionment plan that implements the downsizing passed by the voters of Erie County in a fair, legal, and timely manner. I believe that the good citizens on the Commission share that goal and hope that all members will take a proactive role in accomplishing it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria R. Whyte".

Maria R. Whyte  
6<sup>th</sup> District Legislator, Majority Leader