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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 17, 2011

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

**RE: Central Police Services 2011-2012
DNA Laboratory Backlog Reduction Grant**

Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into a contract with the Federal National Institute of Justice to accept grant funding in the amount of \$526,201 and to establish a new position of Forensic Biologist II.

This project will enable the Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory to perform forensic DNA analysis on up to 526 additional burglary and violent crime cases. It will allow the laboratory to more effectively process an increasing workload and reduce the number of DNA cases awaiting analysis. The implementation of this funding will enable the CPS Laboratory to continue to pursue their goal of providing the highest quality of service while continuing to improve the turn-around time associated with service delivery.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Central Police 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 horizontal line.

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Central Police Services
Re: DNA Laboratory Backlog Reduction Grant 2011-2012
Date: March 17, 2011

SUMMARY

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into contract with the Federal National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to accept new grant funding in the amount of \$526,201. The resolution also requests authorization to establish a new position of Forensic Biologist II.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no impact on County funds. The grant is 100% funded by NIJ and will replace the grant established in the 2011 Budget, Book B.

REASONS FOR RECOMENDATION

The Erie County CPS Forensic Laboratory has a substantial backlog of DNA related cases in need of analysis. This initiative is intended to reduce this backlog and to enhance the capacity of the laboratory to promptly analyze items of evidence submitted from these types of investigations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County CPS Forensic Lab has been processing a number of unsolved cases to determine if biological material can be recovered and typed using forensic DNA technology. We have obtained DNA profiles from a portion of these cases that have resulted in the successful prosecution and conviction of the identified individuals. This success has resulted in a steady increase in the number of cases submitted for DNA analysis, resulting in an increasing backlog. In order to further increase the analytical capabilities of the DNA Section, it is necessary to hire an additional Forensic Biologist II and to perform a portion of the lab work using overtime. The grant as approved in the 2011 Book B has already established an RPT Forensic Serologist position. These positions will result in the completion of up to 526 additional cases, including many property crimes such as burglary. Additional funding will be used to purchase laboratory equipment, maintenance and supplies required for DNA analysis.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this request would restrict the CPS Forensic Laboratory in its efforts to reduce the number of backlogged cases awaiting DNA analysis and to enhance the operational capacity of its DNA Section.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Central Police Services will work with the Division of Budget and Management to implement this request.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
CENTRAL POLICE SERVICES

RE: 2011-2012 DNA Laboratory
Backlog Reduction Grant

WHEREAS, the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Lab has been awarded a Federal National Institute of Justice DNA Laboratory Backlog Reduction Grant to be administered by the Office of Justice Programs; and

WHEREAS, said funds will enable the Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory to analyze and generate DNA profiles from up to 526 additional, unsolved forensic DNA cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided for the County Executive to enter into a contract and accept funding in the amount of \$526,201 with the Federal National Institute of Justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to adjust the Department of Central Police Services grant originally established in the 2011 Budget Book B, to equal the following amounts:

Grant Fund SAP 165DNABACKLOG1112
01/01/2011 to 03/31/2012

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Acct. 414000 Federal Aid	\$526,201
 <u>Appropriation</u>	
Account 500000 Salaries-Full Time	\$ 68,796
Account 500020 Regular Part Time	54,692
Account 501000 Overtime	253,593
Account 502000 Fringe Benefits	94,124
Account 505800 Medical Supplies	30,205
Account 516030 Maintenance Contracts	21,162
Account 561410 Lab & Tech Equipment	3,629
Total Appropriation	\$526,201

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to create the position of one (1) Forensic Biologist II (Grade 12) in the Department of Central Police Services DNA Backlog Grant, (B-100 #6203); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with Federal approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Central Police Services.