

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HHS

July 21, 2011

Hon. Barbara Miller-Williams
Chair, Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Legislator Miller-Williams:

This is in response to questions raised earlier this week at the Health Department Mid-Year Budget Hearing.

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) continues to perform all mandated services related to vector control. As it is not a mandated service, Erie County stopped rodent baiting and trapping on private property, including the use of Rodenticide, as a part of the 2011 Budget.

At the request of several members of the Erie County Legislature, the County Executive agreed to allocate \$70,000 of unanticipated FMAP funding received in 2010 for the purpose of helping interested municipalities pick up this non-mandated service. Again, municipalities are under no obligation to provide this service, just as the County was under no obligation to provide same.

Since the funding resolution was approved by the Legislature in March (Comm. 7E-7), the Administration has been working with the ECDOH to determine a legal and appropriate way to assist municipalities wishing to provide this service. In accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulations, the County is prohibited from purchasing Rodenticide and providing it to municipalities for use. The County is also prohibited from purchasing Rodenticide and providing it to property owners. In addition, NYSDEC regulations require municipalities to have appropriate permits and certifications for the application of Rodenticide and other chemicals/pesticides used for the purpose of vector control.

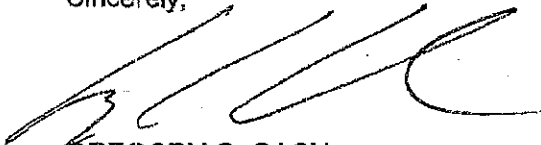
Therefore, it is the intention of the Administration to use the \$70,000 to help municipalities defray the expense of acquiring the necessary permits and certifications so its personnel can legally use Rodenticide and other NYSDEC regulated pesticides associated with vector control. Municipalities interested in performing this non-mandated service and wishing to receive funding to defray the cost associated with certification should submit their proposal to the ECDOH.

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It should be noted that as the Administration is making its funding allocations, it will take into account what the requesting municipality is doing to control the rodent population within its own borders. Municipalities that do not have and enforce a strong property maintenance code and/or do not have strict policies related to the storage of garbage will not receive funding. If a municipality is unwilling to take appropriate steps to curb its rodent population, the Administration does not believe that county taxpayer dollars should be used to fight a losing battle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Gregory G. Gach.

GREGORY G. GACH
Director of Budget and Management