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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 16, 2011

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

**RE: Department of Emergency Services
Acceptance of FY 09 Port Security Grant Program**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Emergency Services requesting authorization to accept \$150,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Fiscal Year 2009 for the Department of Emergency Services. Funding will be utilized to enhance communications between first responders along the Erie County waterfront.

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,

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Emergency Services
Re: Acceptance of FY 09 Port Security Grant Program
Date: August 17, 2011

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached resolution for the Fiscal Year 2009 Port Security Grant Program that will authorize the County Executive to enter into contract to receive \$150,000 in Federal Assistance. Funding will be utilized to enhance communications between first responders along the Erie County waterfront.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact on the county operating budget. Said grant is 100% reimbursed.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Emergency Services will be allowed to manage the submitted allowable expenditures for \$150,000 in Department of Homeland Security funds and utilize the funds to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations. Funding will be utilized to construct a communications tower at Sturgeon Point which will enhance radio communication between first responders along Lake Erie, the Niagara River and the Port of Buffalo.

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. There is a need for Erie County to enhance its ability to manage emergency and disaster situations.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without this Legislation the Port Security Fiscal Year 2009 contract will not be signed, the funding will not be received for the Department of Emergency Services and the original purpose of what these funds were intended to be utilized, to enhance the ability to respond to emergency and disaster related incidents, will not be completed.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will sign the contract, the \$150,000 in Homeland Security grant funds will be received, and the Department of Emergency Services will fulfill its requirements.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

RE: Acceptance of FY 09 Port
Security Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security through the NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has agreed to provide funding in the amount of \$150,000 in federal assistance to be utilized to enhance communications between first responders along the Erie County waterfront; and

WHEREAS, authorization is required from the Erie County Legislature for the County Executive to enter into contact and accept \$150,000 in federal resources to provide funding for the purchase of necessary equipment to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into contract with the Department of Homeland Security through the NYS Department of Homeland Security to receive \$150,000 in grant funding for the Department of Emergency Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this grant, under the Department of Emergency Services, will be utilized to construct a communications tower at Sturgeon Point which will enhance radio communication between first responders along Lake Erie, the Niagara River and the Port of Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said funds will be utilized to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish funding in the Grant Fund 281, as follows:

**Erie County Department of Emergency Services
FY 2009 Port Security Grant Program**

Revenue	Increase
Account 414000 Federal Aid	\$ 150,000
Appropriations	Increase
Account 561410 Equipment (Lab & Tech)	150,000
Total Appropriations	\$ 150,000

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 State and Federal approved funding levels; and be it further

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