



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. JOHN J. MILLS
LEGISLATOR

October 19, 2011

Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Comptroller
95 Franklin Street – Room 1100
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Comptroller Poloncarz:

As you may be aware, pursuant to Erie County Charter Section 2606, revenue and certain expense projections reviewed, you are to “review all revenue estimates and expenditure estimates for Medicaid, public assistance and pension contributions and health care insurance costs for county employees to be used in the proposed tentative budget prepared by the county executive and submit to the Legislature in writing by the 15th of October a report indicating whether or not such estimates are suitable estimates for the upcoming fiscal year.” Charter Section 1902 (o), powers and duties of the comptroller, mirrors this language. To date, no report has been submitted to the legislature. This information is an important first step to reviewing the proposed budget. Please submit your review and opinion so that we can proceed with the budget review process.

In today’s Buffalo News, Mr. McCarthy states that Associate Deputy Comptroller Cornell referenced a later deadline other than that cited in Charter Section 2606 for your review of revenue and expenditure estimates. If this is accurate, could you please cite the Charter language which allows for this this delay of the budget process? I have received constituent questions about the time table for the budget review process and would like to respond accurately if there is conflicting charter language to the section that I have been citing.

Further, the article seems to indicate that this later deadline has been used in two of the last three years without objection. Last year, your review was timely submitted on October 13, 2010 for the budget submitted to the legislature on October 6, 2010. In 2009, it appears from your correspondence to the legislature that you received the estimates as part of the proposed budget on October 2, rather than October 1. You used this one day delay as the basis for submitting your review to the legislature on October 22, 2009. In 2008, the budget was received by the legislature on October 15, 2008. You acknowledged receiving the estimates on October 1, 2008 and stated that you would submit your review by October 15. You ultimately submitted your review on October 29, 2008.

Regardless of past tardiness or past practice, I would like your review so that I can complete my review of the proposed budget with a wider breadth of information. I look forward to your review.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'J'.

John J. Mills
Minority Leader
Legislator, 13th District