



ECLEO NOV15/11 10:43

COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 15, 2011

Immediate Consideration Requested

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

RE: 2011 Funding – Zoological Society of Buffalo

Honorable Members:

The attached resolution proposes to allocate funding to assist the Zoological Society of Buffalo with ongoing efforts to improve its facilities.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Office of the County Executive. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Office of the County Executive
Re: 2011 Funding – Zoological Society of Buffalo
Date: November 15, 2011

SUMMARY

Approval of the attached resolution will allocate funding to the Zoological Society of Buffalo for implementation of Phase II of its Master Plan.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The attached resolution proposes the expenditure of \$6,000,000 of County funds available in the 2011 budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Funding is needed by the Zoological Society of Buffalo to support an existing fundraising campaign. Without implementation of the next phase of the Master Plan, the Zoological Society of Buffalo would be in jeopardy of losing its existing polar bears.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the last decade, the Zoological Society of Buffalo has invested approximately \$32 million in updating the third oldest zoo in the Nation. The Zoological Society now plans to implement Phase II of its Master Plan, building a new entry plaza and Arctic Edge – a state-of-the-art polar bear habitat. If the Zoological Society of Buffalo is to retain its polar bears or ever receive new polar bears in the future, commitment to the new exhibit must occur immediately.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Zoological Society of Buffalo may lose its polar bears.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will enter into an agreement with the Zoological Society of Buffalo.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

RE: 2011 Funding – Zoological Society
and Botanical Gardens

WHEREAS, over the last decade, the Zoological Society of Buffalo has invested approximately \$32 million in updating the third oldest zoo in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Zoological Society of Buffalo now plans to implement Phase II of its Master Plan, building a new entry plaza and Arctic Edge – a state-of-the-art polar bear habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Zoological Society of Buffalo has launched “The Bear Necessities”, a fundraising campaign to raise \$18 million for implementation of this Phase of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, if the Zoological Society of Buffalo is to retain its existing polar bears, or ever receive new polar bears in the future, commitment to the new exhibit must occur immediately; and

WHEREAS, the loss of polar bears will have a devastating impact on the Zoo’s winter attendance and earned revenues; and

WHEREAS, Erie County’s financial contribution will trigger additional Foundation support, bringing the total raised through “The Bear Necessities” close to \$15 million; and

WHEREAS, funds have been identified in the 2011 budget to assist the Zoological Society of Buffalo and the Buffalo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following adjustments to the 2011 budget are hereby authorized:

Expense	Increase/(Decrease)
11400 District Attorney	
Account 502000 Fringe Benefits	(447,980)
120 Social Services	
Account 525060 Safety Net Assist	(2,100,000)
1333020 Cultural	
Account 518188 Zoological Society Of Buffalo	6,000,000
Total Expense Increase	3,452,020
Revenue	
120 Social Services	
Account 414030 FMAP Revenue	2,224,000
Account 418000 Recoveries - Medical Assistance	300,000
Account 418020 Recovery-Safety Net Asst	187,000
Account 466070 Refunds of PY Expense	600,000
Account 466180 Unanticipated P/Y revenue	800,000
Account 407630 SA-Safety Net Assist	(609,000)
Account 411700 Fed Aid - TANF Safety Net	(49,980)
Total Revenue Increase	3,452,020
Net - Revenue less Expense	-0-

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with the Zoological Society of Buffalo in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000, to be matched with a \$1,000,000 foundation grant, for the construction of a new entry plaza and a state-of-the-art polar bear exhibit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of Budget and Management and the County Attorney.