

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS GRANT, WHYTE, MILLS, KOZUB, WHALEN,  
MAZUR, BOVE, MARINELLI, DIXON & LOUGHRAN**

**RE: Public Safety Committee Discussion of Copper Theft Problem**

WHEREAS, the apparent resurgence of the theft of copper from structures, both occupied and vacant, as well as from other sources including utility apparatus' and government sources is both an economic and human crisis; and

WHEREAS, while stricter laws, such as the mandate that scrap yards ascertain the identity of people selling precious commodities have been in place for a considerable amount of time, thefts of copper and other metals have not abated, notably as the price of such commodities continues to increase in value; and

WHEREAS, the problem of such thefts take a heavy toll on the owners and/or occupants of properties within the City of Buffalo, where walls are being torn out to gain access to copper pipes and wiring, resulting not only economic loss, but also in an immeasurable human toll; and

WHEREAS, indeed, with such thefts in occupied dwellings, thieves destroy walls and ceilings, leaving water running until the occupant returns home to find not only the property in shambles, but also their belongings and family treasures like photographs and documents destroyed by the ensuing water damage; and

WHEREAS, in other communities, thieves have been electrocuted, utilities have been disrupted, and streetlights have gone dark; and

WHEREAS, with the tragedy of continued copper thefts and property destruction on going, a discussion of this issue within the Legislature's Public Safety Committee is warranted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature hereby request representatives from the Erie County Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, County Attorney, the Buffalo Police Department, Buffalo Corporation Counsel, as well as any other official/government entity deemed appropriate for such a discussion, be invited to a future meeting of the Public Safety Committee to strategize better ways to address this serious problem; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Sheriff, District Attorney, County Attorney, Mayor of Buffalo, Buffalo Common Council, Buffalo Police Department, Buffalo Corporation Counsel as well as any other individual and/or stakeholder deemed appropriate.

**FISCAL IMPACT: None for the resolution**