

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR MAZUR, MILLS, HOGUES, MARINELLI,
HARDWICK, RATH, McCRACKEN, DIXON & LORIGO**

RE: Initiating a “Renew Local/Buy Local” Public-Private Sector Collaboration

WHEREAS, Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs is a strong proponent of optimizing Erie County’s retention of state-imposed tax and fee revenues collected by the Erie County Clerk’s Office; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the best known fees are those pertaining to motor vehicle title and registration, as well as driver’s license application and renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in Albany seeks to capture 100% of the renewal revenues from counties across the state by directly mailing renewal forms to drivers and the owners of vehicles registered in this state; and

WHEREAS, by taking advantage of the County Clerk’s “Just Mail It” program, Erie County residents can conveniently return their renewals to the local Erie County Clerk’s Office rather than the DMV in Albany; and

WHEREAS, the dollars generated by these local renewals – totaling 12.7% of the revenue collected – help fund Erie County’s non-mandated operations, such as road improvements, sheriff patrols, parks and libraries; and

WHEREAS, every dollar the County Clerk’s Office earns through the “Renew Local” campaign offsets a dollar increase in other tax revenue or a dollar in service cuts; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership has launched an ambitious “Buy Local 2013 Challenge” whereby businesses located in Erie County are encouraged to procure products and services from other Western New York businesses, and to report their transactions to the Partnership; and

WHEREAS, in turn, once the transactions have been reviewed and validated, the companies receive the “Buy Local Challenge” branding rights and a listing on the “Buy Local” webpage of the Partnership; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership’s initiative is but one of several undertaken by local Chambers of Commerce and not-for-profit community groups and organizations, such as Buffalo First, to ensure that consumer and business spending in Erie County has the greatest positive impact on our local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is keenly interested in supporting both the public sector/private sector “Renew Local” and “Buy Local” initiatives, and would like to hear from the Erie County Clerk’s Office, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and other stakeholders on how we can add value to each other’s initiatives; and

WHEREAS, one example would be to increase the distribution of the County Clerk's "Renew Local" fliers or envelopes throughout the business community, and to reciprocate by promoting the "Buy Local" initiative in the County Clerk's Offices throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the "Renew Local" envelopes should be available to the management, employees, customers and clients of local businesses wherever practicable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature fully support the Erie County Clerk's "Renew Local" initiative and the various private sector initiatives that are part of the "Buy Local" movement gaining momentum in Buffalo and across our nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body encourage a mutually beneficial dialogue between the Erie County Clerk's Office, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and other "Buy Local" promoters to put in place some of the aforementioned ideas for collaboration and cross-promotion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Government Affairs Committee of the Erie County Legislature would like to serve as a sounding board for the ideas that ensue from this dialogue, as this collaboration could potentially serve as a model for counties and business communities across New York State through the involvement of NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties); and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs; Dottie Gallagher-Cohen, President and CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership; County Executive Mark Poloncarz; Deputy County Executive Richard Tobe; Maria Whyte, Commissioner of the Department of Environment & Planning; Stephen Acquario, Executive Director of NYSAC and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for the Erie County Budget and the Local Economy.