

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR HARDWICK**

RE: Calling upon Director of Real Property Tax Services to Form a Task Force to Maximize Participation of Erie County Residents in New York State's STAR Program

WHEREAS, school taxes are the largest component of most Erie County residents' total property tax bill; and

WHEREAS, participation in the state's STAR program can significantly reduce homeowners' school tax bills; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of Erie County homeowners fail to take advantage of this opportunity to save hundreds of dollars on their school tax bills; and

WHEREAS, many other taxpayers who receive the Basic STAR benefit are eligible for the Enhanced STAR, but fail to register for it; and

WHEREAS, qualified taxpayers who do not receive their full STAR benefits lose hundreds of dollars every year; and

WHEREAS, this amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars forfeited each year county-wide; and

WHEREAS, if claimed, this money could be invested in the economy of Erie County and result in the creation of jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this body urges the Director of Real Property Tax Services to form a Task Force in conjunction with local assessors to insure that everyone who is eligible for STAR receives the maximum benefit due them; and be it further

RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Director of Real Property Tax Services Joseph Maciejewski, Deputy County Executive Richard Tobe (as coordinator of economic development activities) and County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

Economic Impact: Positive due to anticipated increased investment in Erie County.