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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 19, 2013

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

RE: Erie County Medical Examiner Staffing

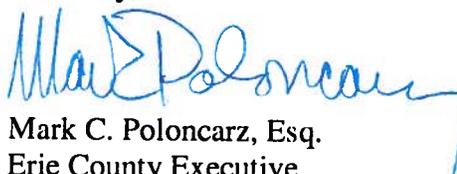
Dear Honorable Members:

As the primary source of medical investigation in Erie County and also several other counties operating under agreements, the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office plays a critical role in helping bring closure to the families of the deceased and to work with law enforcement to bring criminals to justice.

Following an extensive, months-long recruitment process, the Medical Examiner's Office has identified a highly qualified candidate for the position of Associate Chief Medical Examiner, job group 22. We are requesting authorization to fill this position with a starting salary at a variable minimum of step 4. There is no increase to the 2013 Budget.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein, MD. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Gale R. Burstein, MD, Commissioner of Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Erie County Medical Examiner Staffing
Date: November 19, 2013

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to provide a variable minimum for the position of Associate Chief Medical Examiner, job group 22, step 4 to be filled by a recently recruited highly qualified candidate.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County dollars are required for this request. The currently vacant position has generated sufficient savings in the budget for this request. Also, in anticipation of this action, the 2014 Budget for this position was budgeted to adequately fund the variable minimum request.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Medical Examiner's Office preforms hundreds of autopsies a year, and is a crucial component of the criminal justice system, and the County's public health apparatus. It is incumbent upon Erie County to staff the office with competent, qualified forensic pathologists.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Medical Examiner's Office has been with just 1 Chief Medical Examiner and 1 Associate Chief Medical Examiner in addition to 1 fee-for-service pathologist. After an extensive recruiting effort, the Department of Health has identified a candidate interested in joining the Medical Examiner's team at the Associate Chief Level, provided we offer a variable minimum.

Having a third medical examiner will lead to a reduction in the county's utilization of our fee-for-service pathologist, although we will still require such services intermittently.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Health will be unable to properly manage the Medical Examiner's Office.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management and the Department of Personnel to implement this request.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: Erie County Medical Examiner Staffing

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health provides forensic medical services through the Office of the Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, the need for expert pathological skills is critical for the function of the medical examiner's office; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office provides crucial support and determinations to the law enforcement community and

WHEREAS, as such, the Department of Health is requesting authorization to fill the vacant title of Associate Chief Medical Examiner at a variable minimum,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the hiring of one Associate Chief Medical Examiner, Job Group 22, at a variable minimum hiring level of Step 4 (annual salary \$129,453); and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Division of Budget and Management, and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.