



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 16, 2013

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

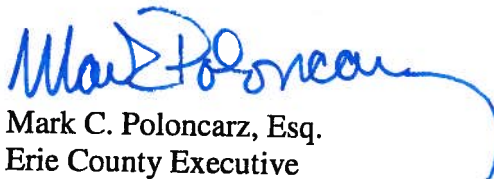
Re: Steel Plant Museum - Bethlehem Steel Sign

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum regarding the transportation and preservation of an iconic Bethlehem Steel sign for installation at the Steel Plant Museum. Under an arrangement involving National Grid, the County would provide a small amount of funding to facilitate the preservation of the sign.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information or has any questions, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Maria Whyte at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,


Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc
Enclosure
cc: Commissioner Maria Whyte

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
FROM: Maria Whyte, Commissioner, Department of Environment & Planning
RE: Steel Plant Museum - Bethlehem Steel Sign
DATE: December 16, 2013

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached resolution authorizing the County Executive to enter into an agreement with the Steel Plant Museum of WNY and provide \$1,000 in funding to relocate an approximate 18 ft. by 18 ft. Bethlehem Steel sign from the former Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna to the museum's new location on Lee Street in the City of Buffalo.

FISCAL IMPACT

Erie County's share of the movement of the sign is \$1,000 and is currently available in the 2013 Budget of the Department of Environment and Planning.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

One large iconic sign remains from the former Bethlehem Steel sight in Lackawanna and is in danger of falling into disrepair at its current location. The Steel Plant Museum has obtained a \$1,000 grant from National Grid to help pay for the \$2,000 cost to relocate the sign and is seeking a \$1,000 matching grant from Erie County.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If the sign is not moved before the end of winter, its deterioration will continue and preservation of the sign may not be possible. Also, the Steel Plant Museum would lose the matching grant from National Grid.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION

The County Executive will enter into an agreement with the Steel Plant Museum of WNY.

**Resolution Submitted by:
Department of Environment and Planning**

Re: Steel Plant Museum - Bethlehem Steel Sign

WHEREAS, the Steel Plant Museum of WNY is a not-for-profit organization that strives to preserve the region's steel making history; and

WHEREAS, very few large remnants remain from the former local Bethlehem Steel, Republic Steel and Hanna Furnace steel company sites; and

WHEREAS, Erie County desires to enrich the legacy of our region's history with the steel making industry, its impact on forming our region's quality of life and its impact on the history of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Erie County recognizes that tourism and cultural facilities are an important part of our region's economy; and

WHEREAS, Erie County desires to assist the Steel Plant Museum of WNY in preserving an iconic 18 ft. by 18 ft. sign that was once displayed on a building at the former Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna;

WHEREAS, the Steel Plant Museum of WNY has already obtained a \$1,000 grant from National Grid to pay for one half the cost of relocating the iconic Bethlehem Steel sign and seeks a matching grant from Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with the Steel Plant Museum of WNY for \$1,000.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement shall stipulate that the funds be utilized for the sole purpose of relocating the iconic Bethlehem Steel sign to the new location at the Steel Plant Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for this request has been reserved and is currently available in the 2013 Budget of the Department of Environment, account 516010, Contractual Agency Payments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to reappropriate said funds from the 2013 Budget into 2014 in order to provide payment upon completion of contractual agreements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the County Comptroller; and the County Attorney.