

# SUSPENSION



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## COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 11, 2014

Hon. John Mills  
Chairman  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York, 14202

### **Re: Immediate Consideration for Comm. 12E-34**

Dear Chairman Mills:

The agenda for the June 12, 2014 meeting of the Erie County Legislature, distributed by the Clerk of the Legislature yesterday afternoon, indicated that Comm. 12E-34 (Child Protective Services Adjustments) will be referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. Immediate consideration was requested for this item and we hoped a vote would take place at tomorrow's session. It is very rare for administration officials not to be invited to discuss an item in which immediate consideration was requested during the meeting held before the official session. Postponement of this request will cause delays to improvements to child protective services.

In the proposal, funding for these positions for 2014 has been budgeted for six months. As you can imagine, hiring an employee is a lengthy process that, under the best circumstances, takes several weeks. This will be especially true for the Protective Services Investigator and Senior Protective Services Investigator positions we asked to be created. We will be required to recruit individuals for these positions due to the lack of a civil service list. Delaying approval of this request will cause our target start date for these positions to shift from July 1, 2014, to July 15, 2014.

An additional concern is the uncertainty facing many of our provisional Child Protective Service workers. Despite their strong performance to date, we are unable to make many provisional Child Protective Service workers permanent because they are not currently reachable on the eligible civil service list. The creation of these additional positions will make these provisional employees reachable, thus allowing us to make them permanent. These provisional employees currently have an uncertain employment future and as a result are seeking other job opportunities. Delaying approval of this request may cause us to lose quality employees and squander the investment we have made in their development.

Deputy County Executive Richard Tobe and I were prepared to discuss this matter in depth at the June 3, 2014, special Health and Human Services Committee meeting. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete our presentation because the Committee had other matters it wanted to discuss. Legislators did indicate that they would review our written proposal

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and contact us if they had any follow-up questions. We have yet to receive a letter, e-mail or phone-call from any Legislator on this matter, which would seem to indicate that members understand and accept our proposal.

Please allow a vote on this matter at tomorrow's Legislature session. Please inform me if representatives from my department should attend either of tomorrow's meetings.

Sincerely,



Carol Dankert-Maurer

Commissioner

Erie County Department of Social Services

CDM/bb

cc: County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz  
All Legislators  
Scott Kroll, Clerk of the Legislature