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June 10, 2014

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

ECLEG JUN10'14 10:05

Re: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Inmate Commissary Account
Immediate Consideration Requested

Honorable Members:

Attached please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authorization to sell remaining inventory of plants from the Inmate Horticultural Program to the public and to deposit all proceeds into the Inmate Commissary Account.

Please refer this matter for immediate consideration and approval at the next meeting of your Honorable Body. Representatives of the Sheriff's Office will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY B. HOWARD
SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

Attachments

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

RE: Erie County Sheriff's Office -
Sale of remaining plant inventory from Inmate Horticultural Program

I. Summary of Recommended Action

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Erie County Sheriff's Office Jail Management Division to sell the remaining inventory of flats and hanging baskets to the general public and for the proceeds to be deposited in the Inmate Commissary Account

II. Fiscal Implications of Proposal

Funding for these services will be available in the Inmate Commissary Account for the Inmate Horticultural Program continuation, expansion and facility maintenance.

III. Reasons for Recommendation

After the baskets and flats have been distributed to county departments and donated to charitable organizations, there is inventory remaining. This excess inventory can be sold to the public to generate funds to continue the Inmate Horticultural Program and secure a long-term funding source.

IV. Consequence of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office Jail Management Division will not be able to continue or expand the Inmate Horticultural Program. In addition, the horticultural program would be forced to dispose of the remaining plants.

V. Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the Office of the Sheriff, the Erie County Comptroller and the County Attorney.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Re: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Sale of remaining plant inventory from the Inmate Horticultural Program

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Jail Management Division has restored the Inmate Greenhouse/Horticultural program after years of inactivity, and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Fisher, supervises the program which includes two greenhouses (#1 – 22'x48'; #2 – 18'x96'), seeding and planting tables, and

WHEREAS, the program grows plants from seeds and cultivates the various plant and flower species to maturity, and

WHEREAS, the initial seeding produces 100 hanging baskets and 500 flats of flowers, and

WHERESEAS, these plants are utilized on county properties and donated to charitable organizations, and

WHEREAS, there are baskets and flats remaining after distribution to sell to the general public for the purpose of reinvesting into the Inmate Horticultural Program, and

WHEREAS, inmate training programs, such as the horticultural program, have proven to help inmates learn a trade and adjust in the transition from jail to private life, and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from the sale of flats and hanging baskets would continue to expand and improve inmate training programs and reduce recidivism, and

WHEREAS, a recent news article highlighted the success of the inmate training program by providing new life direction to a young inmate, and

WHEREAS, the continued success of inmate training programs will change additional inmate lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Sheriff's Office Jail Management Division is authorized to sell all remaining plant inventory to the public at a price equivalent to the market rate or to local greenhouses and nurseries at a price equivalent to the wholesale rate; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the all proceeds from the sale of the plant inventory is to be deposited in the Inmate Commissary Account and it is to be utilized solely for the Inmate Horticultural Program's continuation, expansion and facility maintenance; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Office of the Sheriff, the Erie County Comptroller and the County Attorney.