COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 27, 2014

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

Re: Authorization to Contract with Premier OB/GYN

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution seeking authorization to enter into a contract with Premier OB/GYN for services rendered as part of the Cancer Services Program ("CSP").

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact the Department of Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To:	Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From:	Department of Health
Re:	Authorization to Contract with Premier OB/GYN
Date:	**May 27, 2014**

SUMMARY

The Department of Health is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Premier OB/GYN in order to process payments for services rendered by Premier OB/GYN as part of the Cancer Service Program ("CSP") and to continue that contracting relationship for the period January 1, 2012-December 31, 2014.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Available funds, including a past due amount totaling $6,657.06, are available in the 2014 Budget of the Division of Health from the Cancer Services grant funding pool.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The CSP is a grant program funded by the New York State Department of Health which provides free cancer screening services to the un-insured and underinsured. For many years, the Department of Health contracted with the American Cancer Society ("ACS") for the provision of services in the CSP.

Prior to 2014 CSP was administered by a local office of the American Cancer Society. ECDOH, as the grantee, acted as a pass through for funding and payments associated with the program. Through December 31, 2011, payments to providers who participated came out of a single pool, without individual contracts between Erie County and those providers.

A 2011 determination by the office of the Erie County Comptroller found that individual contracts should be executed between Erie County and all CSP providers. While contracts were executed between Erie County and the vast majority of CSP providers, it appears that confusion between Premier OB/GYN and Premier Family Medicine led to a contract not being executed for this Premier OB/GYN. (Premier Family Medicine has an authorized contract.)

In 2013 ACS decided to end its provision of these services. The County received state grant funding to continue the CSP and your Honorable Body approved of that action. Since assuming responsibility for the CSP, accounting staff in the Erie County Department of Health found that payments to Premier OB/GYN had not been processed due to the lack of a contract between Erie County and Premier OB/GYN. Program staff

from the American Cancer Society had sent patients to Premier OB/GYN without verifying that a contract was in place.

In order to pay Premier OB/GYN for past due monies totaling $6,657.06 and to maintain the relationship with this contractor, the Erie County Department of Health needs to enter into a contract with Premier OB/GYN.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County would be unable to process payments owed to Premier OB/GYN and would further be unable to send patients to seek critical cancer screenings from this healthcare provider.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Health will follow the appropriate steps necessary to enter into the contract.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Authorization to Contract with Premier OB/GYN

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health administers a Cancer Services Program to provide cancer screenings to the uninsured and the underinsured; and

WHEREAS, the Cancer Services Program is responsible for ensuring thousands of Erie County residents receive needed screenings for potentially deadly cancers; and

WHEREAS, every year dozens of lives are saved thanks to the discovery of treatable cancers in Erie County residents who utilize the Cancer Services Program; and

WHEREAS, Premier OB/GYN is one of the healthcare providers which has provided screenings for cervical cancer to Erie County Residents; and

WHEREAS, Premier OB/GYN is owed $6,657.06 for services rendered as part of the Cancer Services Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Premier OB/GYN need to execute a contract in order for the payment to be made, as well as to continue the County's relationship with the vendor moving forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Premier OB/GYN for the period January 1, 2012-December 31, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature approves of the payment of $6,657.06 to Premier OB/GYN for services previously rendered; and be it further

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