# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 21, 2014

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

**RE: Central Police Services/STOP-DWI State Police Traffic Control**
**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Central Police Services attached resolution seeking authorization to purchase, and subsequently donate to the New York State Police Troop A, a towable trailer. The trailer will increase the number and enhance the safe conduct of sobriety checkpoints and reduce costs to the County STOP-DWI Office.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact John F. Sullivan, Project Coordinator, Stop DWI or John A. Glascott, Commissioner, at the Department of Central Police Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mp
Enclosure

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
**From:** Central Police Services/ STOP-DWI
**Re:** Central Police Services/STOP-DWI State Police Traffic Control
**Date:** July 21, 2014

## SUMMARY

The attached resolution requests authorization to purchase and subsequently donate a towable trailer to the New York State Police Troop A.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This measure will reduce costs, and increase fine revenue. There are no fiscal implications on the current year budget as there is available money budgeted in the SDWI account #561410-Lab & Technical Equipment.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Passage of this resolution would reduce the cost of personnel currently engaged in traffic control at sobriety checkpoints, increase the number of sobriety checkpoints conducted by the state police in Erie County, derive greater fine revenue from arrests arising at the checkpoints, increase the deterrent effect, and improve DWI prevention efforts.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The trailer will be used by the New York State Police to carry their own traffic control equipment (signs, cones, light standards) to DWI checkpoint locations. The State Police will perform their own traffic control duties and reduce the need for STOP-DWI to pay overtime for Erie County Emergency Services crews to provide it.

The State Police conduct checkpoints in many WNY counties. The convenience of having traffic control equipment organized and accessible makes doing checkpoints in Erie County more likely because they are easier to organize. The NYSP have a mandate for many Checkpoints in 2014. This measure will attract the conduct of these operations to Erie County.

Additionally, the State Police are not reimbursed by the STOP-DWI Office for personnel costs associated with checkpoint operations. Therefore a checkpoint and traffic control performed entirely by State Police personnel is $0 expense to STOP-DWI. We have worked out a plan for the NYSP Foundation to receive, register, insure, plate, and maintain the trailer with no ongoing expense, nor administrative or legal responsibility. The NYSP Foundation is an Albany based organization but the trailer will be used in Erie County.

We expect the trailer to reduce costs and produce checkpoints and revenue far beyond the expense. It will also provide a second source of traffic control support, when Emergency Services personnel are not available, and improve our mission to deter DWI.

## CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this request will maintain higher costs, forego an opportunity to increase checkpoints in Erie County, and reduce options for traffic control at checkpoints during periods when Emergency Services are otherwise occupied.

## STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Central Police Services/ STOP-DWI will work with the Division of Purchase and the Law Department to execute the delivery of the trailer.

# A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
# CENTRAL POLICE SERVICES/ STOP-DWI

RE: Central Police Services/STOP-DWI
State Police Traffic Control

WHEREAS the STOP-DWI Office coordinates and sponsors DWI Sobriety Checkpoint activity; and

WHEREAS, proper and uniform traffic control practices enhance the safe, legal, and effective conduct of DWI Checkpoint operations; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Emergency Services provides traffic control service using industry standards and best practices; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Police Troop A has an equivalent operating procedure for traffic management at NYSP DWI checkpoints and will assume traffic control duties currently delivered by the Erie County Department of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Police Troop A has requested the donation and of equipment that would assist in the transition and assumption of this service; and

WHEREAS, the STOP-DWI Office has funds available in budget line #561410-Lab & Technical Equipment to acquire equipment relating to the provision of traffic control; and

WHEREAS, the following item will be purchased and subsequently donated: 6 x 10 ft. Custom Cargo 3500# axle, 2" coupler, flat 4 plug, side man door with rear double doors mobile trailer with a total approximate value not exceed $4,500; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Police Foundation has agreed to take possession of the trailer and will be responsible for license plates, registration, and insurance for same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County STOP-DWI Office is authorized to purchase through the Erie County bidding procedure and subsequently donate the aforementioned equipment to the New York State Police Foundation for use in conducting sobriety checkpoints in Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funds are available within the Stop DWI 2014 Budget, Business Area 165, cost center 1650060, WBS SDWI, fund 110, GL 561410 Lab & Technical Equipment to acquire equipment relating to the provision of traffic control; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the County Executive, the Department of Central Police Services/STOP DWI, and Division of Budget and Management.