

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR GRANT**

**Re: Encouraging Modernization of Government Terminology**

WHEREAS, recent events across the United States have highlighted a need for increased racial awareness between Police Departments and minority communities; and

WHEREAS, the Lockport Police Department was recently made aware of the racially insensitive language used in their databases that classified African-American citizens as 'Negro,' grading people by the darkness of their skin tone; and

WHEREAS, language accepted and used by an institution can create and reinforce an unintended culture of bias; and

WHEREAS, any police or public service agency, especially those funded by tax dollars, should not utilize any terminology that could be construed as demeaning, prejudicial or derogatory toward any individual or group of people; and

WHEREAS, the Lockport Police Department should not be criticized for this transgression, yet should be commended for the modernization of their database to no longer make use of the word 'Negro' and for their commitment to diversity through training; and

WHEREAS, it is tantamount for law enforcement and public service agencies to continue their work on improving and developing effective protocols and procedures to reflect the diversity of all races and genders in our community with thoughtfulness and understanding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Erie County Legislature directs the Department of Central Police Services to verify in a letter to the legislature that they have checked their databases to ensure that modernized racial terminology is used; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Department of Central Police Services send a memo to all Police Agencies they work with in Erie County to encourage those departments to verify the same.

Fiscal Impact: None for Resolution