Buffalo & Erie County Public
LIBRARY

November 3, 2014

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

Re: Information Request by Legislators Joseph C. Lorigo and Edward A. Rath, III – Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL)

Dear Honorable Members:

On October 27, 2014 Legislators Joseph C. Lorigo and Edward A. Rath, III issued a letter requesting the B&ECPL provide them with information including (1) all e-mail communication between employees and board members of the B&ECPL and Communication Services; (2) the amount of Library Foundation funding for the Library District Initiative (LDI); (3) the contract between Whiteman, Osterman, & Hanna LLP (WOH) and the Library; and (4) all billing statements from WOH including the time sheets provided by the law firm detailing what work they accomplished during their representation of the B&ECPL.

The B&ECPL notes that the request for such documents, especially as the request involves documents historically subject to confidentiality, is appropriately made by the Chairman of the Erie County Legislature, or the full Erie County Legislature (NY State County Law, section 209; Erie County Charter, section 202), not by individual legislators. However, since most of these documents previously have been provided to the County Comptroller for purposes of the B&ECPL's 2014 audit, the B&ECPL provides them herein, reserving the right to require proper process in the future in connection with these kinds of requests. In accord with the above, the B&ECPL is providing the material requested to all Erie County Legislators.

Our response to specific requests is as follows:

1. E-Mail Communications

E-mail communications responding to request 1 of the October 27, 2014 letter are on the enclosed USB drive. The e-mails have been provided in complete data files with attachments and full headers. E-mails are in the zip file with each message in its own file in industry standard .eml format. Files are readable with a text editor. To extract the attachments, please use a utility such as ripMIME or mu_extract or you may drag and drop the .emf files into a mail program such as Windows Live Mail. If you have any problem reading any of these files, please advise.

2. Library Foundation

The Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County, Inc. is a private not-for-profit corporation, not under the control of the B&ECPL, nor subject to the Erie County Legislature. The

information requested is known to the B&ECPL and others and is provided below, without reference to or any intended waiver of the Library Foundation's independent right to deny such requests.

The Library Foundation funded and provided services valued at $27,500.

3. Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP Contract

The contract between the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP can be found on the enclosed USB drive. See folder named: WOH Contract.

4. Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP Billing Statements

The B&ECPL has previously provided the billing statements requested for 2011-2013 to the Erie County Comptroller's office as a part of the B&ECPL's 2014 audit response. Those statements have been included again on the enclosed USB drive. In addition, 2014 billing statements have been included. See folder named: WOH Invoices with Detail.

- Average hourly billing is $226.76.

Should you have any questions, please contact Director Mary Jean Jakubowski at jakubowskim@buffalolib.org or (716) 858-7180.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Connors, Chair
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees

JC/mb

Enc.

cc: B&ECPL Board of Trustees
Mary Jean Jakubowski, Library Director
Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive (Enclosure sent)