ECLEG OCT 22 '14 PM 2:47

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS MILLS, LORIGO, GRANT, DIXON, HARDWICK, MORTON, RATH, BURKE, LOUGHRAN, MILLER-WILLIAMS & SAVAGE

WHEREAS, the development, expansion and promotion of tourist travel to Erie County are of great benefit to the citizens of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, tourism spending in Erie County is reflected in bed and sales tax collections, as well as spurring a positive economic impact on amateur and professional sporting events, shopping, arts and culture and the hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, this positive impact helps hold down property taxes and spurs economic growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the New York State Legislature enacted the New York State Tourism Promotion Act to enable counties in the state to draw down funds to support their marketing and advertising campaigns; and

WHEREAS, the Tourism Promotion Act authorizes the state's Department of Economic Development to operate a program of matching state funds for non-profit tourism promotion agencies designated by county legislative bodies as agencies that are authorized to apply for and receive grants for recognized media advertising programs; and

WHEREAS, Visit Buffalo Niagara (VBN) – formerly known as the Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau – has done a commendable job bringing together a diverse array of non-profit organizations, attractions, retail businesses and members of the hospitality industry to work collaboratively for the benefit of our entire region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Visit Buffalo Niagara (VBN), having served as Erie County's tourism promotion agency since 1974, is hereby re-designated as such for 2014-2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby request that Visit Buffalo Niagara submit the appropriate application to the New York State Department of Economic Development for state matching funds to assist VBN to finance its tourism marketing, media relations and advertising campaigns as set outlined in the New York State tourism Promotion Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, that officials of Visit Buffalo Niagara are hereby requested to appear at a future meeting of the Legislature's Community Enrichment Committee to discuss the status of the aforementioned state matching fund grants and other matters relating to the promotion of tourist visitation in Erie County and the Buffalo Niagara Region; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development, 30 South Pearl St., Albany, NY 12245; Patrick Kaler and Leah Mueller of Visit Buffalo Niagara, 403 Main St., Suite 630, Buffalo, NY 14203; the tourism committees of both the New York State Assembly and Senate; County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz; Maria Whyte, Commissioner of the Department of Environment & Planning, and all other deemed necessary and proper.