

# SUSPENSION



## COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Honorable Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

November 24, 2014

**RE: DPW 2015 Budget**

Dear Chairman Mills:

Since DPW is deeply engaged in efforts related to the clean-up of this historic storm and unable to provide testimony at your annual Budget Hearings, I thought it wise to submit some comments on my 2015 Departmental Budget in writing.

### **Division of Highways:**

The 2014 highway construction season was very successful because of the following:

- The Omnibus Resolution preapproving highway design and construction contracts allowed the department to add additional projects and complete the maximum number of jobs in our region's short construction season.

The 2015 highway construction season could be more successful than the 2014 highway construction season if the following were established:

- In addition to another Omnibus Resolution preapproving highway design and construction contracts, the Legislature should approve the 2015 Consolidated Bond Resolution no later than mid-March. This will lengthen the construction season by approximately one month.

### **Energy Manager:**

I am pleased to report that DPW hired an Energy Manager earlier this month. As you know, the Energy Manager position was funded effective July 1, 2014. After many months of searching state-wide for the right candidate, we were pleased to hire local resident, Eric Walker. Mr. Walker has a strong background in energy policy, as well as strong relationships with our energy service providers and NYSERDA. He is already at work in the Department establishing an energy policy for the county and getting a 2015 work program underway.

Thank you for understanding my Department's inability to provide testimony in person during the management of this storm. I appreciate the opportunity to submit these written comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JCL", is written over the typed name.

John C. Loffredo, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works