



OFFICE OF THE ERIE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FRANK A. SEDITA, III
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

February 4, 2014

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: District Attorney's Office
Video Recording of Statements Program
Immediate Consideration Requested

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authorization to set up appropriations for grant funding received from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the purposes of enhancing law enforcement efforts and prosecution outcomes through videotaping of interviews and interrogations. These funds will aid local law enforcement communities in purchasing and/or enhancing their technological capabilities to perform video interviewing.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, kindly contact the District Attorney's Office or our office and we will be happy to accommodate your requests.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Sedita, III".

FRANK A. SEDITA, III
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FAS/lh

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

To: Erie County Legislature
From: Frank A. Sedita, III, District Attorney
Date: January 17, 2014
Re: District Attorney's Office
Video Recording of Statements Program
Immediate Consideration Requested

I. Summary of Recommended Action

The proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum request authorization to appropriate funds for the District Attorney's Office Video Recording of Statements Program and execute subcontracts, in accordance with the grantor approved appropriation levels.

II. Fiscal Implications of Proposal

The District Attorney's Office has received a grant award in the amount of \$49,870 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for the purpose of distributing monies to law enforcement agencies to enhance their technological capabilities of recording interviews and interrogations. Funds have been awarded to twelve police agencies throughout Erie County.

III. Reasons for Recommendation and Background of Proposal

The Video Recording of Statements Program is part of the DCJS's comprehensive strategy to reduce crime in New York State. This initiative is designed to provide local law enforcement and prosecutors with video recording equipment to be utilized to record police/prosecution interviews and interrogations. This funding is the second round of funding for video equipment; the first being back in 2007 when \$50,000 was distributed to local law enforcement agencies. For this current round of funding, all police agencies within Erie County were contacted in July of 2013 by our office in order to solicit requests to outfit their agencies with video recording equipment or upgrade their current technology. All twelve agencies which requested equipment and provided appropriate quotes for that equipment were included in our grant application. All twelve agencies were awarded funding by DCJS based on their requests. These agencies include:

Buffalo Police	\$ 5,000
Cheektowaga Police	4,681
East Aurora Police	4,330
Eden Police	4,337
Evans Police	4,262
Town of Hamburg Police	4,337
Village of Hamburg Police	4,337
Kenmore Police	3,887
Lancaster Police	1,750
Orchard Park Police	4,370
West Seneca Police	4,235
Buffalo State Police	4,344

As per the grant program, the District Attorney's Office will be responsible for the overall management of the project and the disbursement of funds to those agencies. The recipient agencies will be responsible for purchasing and maintaining their equipment, as well as for the training of their own staff in the use of the equipment. In addition, each agency will collaborate with the District Attorney's Office in developing and implementing a county wide protocol regarding the recording of statements and use of those statements in prosecutions.

IV.

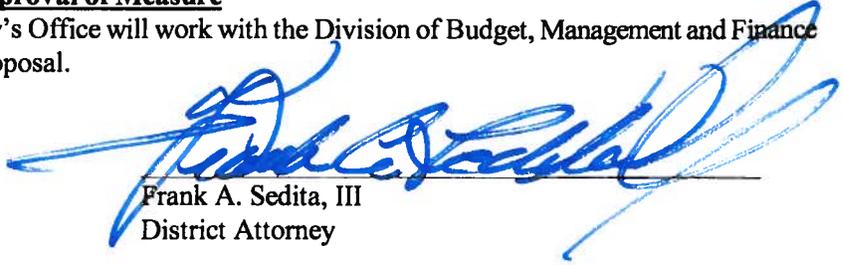
Consequences of Negative Action

This program will ultimately result in more successful prosecutions within Erie County by utilizing videotaped interviews and interrogations.

V.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

The District Attorney's Office will work with the Division of Budget, Management and Finance to implement this proposal.



Frank A. Sedita, III
District Attorney

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Re: District Attorney’s Office
Video Recording of Statements Program

WHEREAS, funds for the Video Recording of Statements Program have been made available to the District Attorney’s Office from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$49,870; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used by District Attorney’s Office to provide various local law enforcement agencies the ability to purchase and enhance their video recording equipment to be used in interviewing and interrogations of defendants and witnesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of funding the purchase of video recording equipment to local police agencies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into subcontracts with the various local law enforcement agencies awarded funding by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of funding the purchase of video recording equipment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby provide authorization to establish the District Attorney’s Video Recording of Statements Program Grant as follows:

Video Recording of Statements Program
Fund: 281, Cost Center: 1140050, Grant: 114VIDEO2014

Revenues

409000 State Revenue		<u>\$ 49,870</u>
	Total Revenues	<u>\$ 49,870</u>

Appropriations

516000 Contractual (Local Law Enforcement)		<u>\$ 49,870</u>
	Total Appropriations	<u>\$ 49,870</u>

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget & Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with State-approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County District Attorney, the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of Budget and Management.