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February 28, 2014

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

RE: Increase in Fee for Background Checks and Fingerprinting

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to increase the fee for obtaining background checks and fingerprinting from the Erie County Sheriff's Office. Individuals requesting a background check from the Sheriff's Office will be charged twenty five (\$25) to cover the cost of generating the information.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact the Chief of Administrative Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Timothy B. Howard
Erie County Sheriff

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

RE: Increase in the Fee for Background Checks and Fingerprinting

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office provides fingerprinting and background checks for residents of Erie County for multiple purposes including pistol permit applications and pre-employment screening for law enforcement and individuals working with children and the elderly, and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the fee of \$15 was established for fingerprinting and background checks, and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing fingerprinting and background checks has steadily increased over the past 18 years and needs to be increased to cover the cost associated with this service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to establish a fee of twenty five dollars (\$25) per NCIC or other criminal background check or fingerprinting to be assessed on each individual who requests a background check to be performed through the Sheriff's Office, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief of Administration for the Erie County Sheriff's Office, The Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller and the County Executive.

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

RE: Increase in the Fee for Background Checks

I. Summary of Recommended Action

Authorization is requested to increase the fee for obtaining background checks and fingerprinting. Individuals requesting a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or any other type of record check from the Sheriff's Office will be charged twenty five (\$25) to cover the cost of providing the check.

II. Fiscal Implications of Proposal

Positive fiscal impact for Erie County. The increased fee will help cover the cost of providing these checks.

III. Reasons for Recommendation

The growing costs associated with background checks and fingerprinting as well as the manpower necessary to conduct the checks has far outpaced the current fee being charged. The increased fee will allow the Erie County Sheriff's Department to cover more of the costs of this service.

IV. Consequences of Negative Action

Failure to approve this request will prevent the Sheriff's Office from recovering the costs associated with this service. Ultimately, without a mechanism to recoup more costs, the Sheriff's Office may have to consider dropping this service.

V. Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Division of Budget and Management, Erie County Comptroller, the County Executive and the Chief of Administration for the Sheriff's Office for implementation.