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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 6, 2015

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

RE: Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Grant Program

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning seeking authorization for the County Executive to execute a contract with Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment, accept funds and establish a budget, and create an Environmental Education Specialist (JG-9) position which will be filled by an existing staff person in the Department of Environment and Planning to assume responsibility for providing Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal program services as required.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Deputy Commissioner Thomas R. Hersey, Jr. at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw
Enclosure

cc: Maria R. Whyte, Commissioner
Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Grant Program
Date: May 6, 2015

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) seeking authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement with the Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment (CCFE); to accept \$99,222 in New York State Health Department funding to support a one-year Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal program; establish a budget; and create an Environmental Education Specialist (JG-9) position in the Department of Environment and Planning.

The funding will allow the ECDEP to provide administrative, logistical and technical support services for the Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program. Responsibility for providing these services would be handled by an Environmental Education Specialist (JG-9) position in the ECDEP.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The contract with the CCFE will provide \$99,222 over a one-year period. A budget will be established for the funding to support ECDEP for waste pharmaceutical disposal activities. ECDEP will provide an in kind match. There are no other fiscal implications.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Improper disposal of pharmaceutical waste from medical care facilities have the potential to contaminate surface waters and impact human health and the environment. Approval of this resolution will enable the ECDEP to provide essential services through the Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program. The program is to promote and implement procedures for long term care and other assisted living facilities to properly capture, store, and destroy unused pharmaceuticals. The program will utilize a comprehensive and cooperative approach that identifies best practices and methods tailored for each facility.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Current best practices for disposal of unused pharmaceuticals at medical facilities include flushing to a sanitary sewer or disposal in regular trash. This allows the uncontrolled discharge of pharmaceuticals into our waterways. Pharmaceuticals from sewer system discharges have been shown to have adverse impacts upon native fish populations. The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) proposes to develop a program for the collection and proper disposal of waste pharmaceuticals from medical care facilities. Residential collection events have captured and properly destroyed over 60 tons of pharmaceuticals to date. ECDEP is requesting funding of \$99,222 from CCFE for the program.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without the requested authorization, Erie County will be unable to assist medical care facilities in properly disposing of pharmaceutical wastes generated by residents in their care. These pharmaceuticals may be disposed of by flushing down toilets entering residential sewer systems

and ultimately contaminating Erie County waters. Erie County will forfeit \$99,222 of funding from the Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment that would support an Environmental Education Specialist (JG-9) position in ECDEP to provide medical care facilities with pharmaceutical waste management and reduction assistance.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The contract with the Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment will be executed, funds will be accepted, and a budget established for personnel, fringe and other expenses associated with the program work plans.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Erie County Medical Care Waste
Pharmaceutical Disposal Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) provides technical assistance to municipalities, organizations and businesses to facilitate compliance with State Environmental regulations and adopt environmentally safe waste disposal practices; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP) provides programs for the proper disposal of dangerous and hazardous residential waste; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment (CCFE) has solicited Erie County to develop and coordinate a one-year pilot program to guide, assist and train local healthcare officials in adopting a comprehensive Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has received notification of award from CCFE for \$99,222 in grant funding for the Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program through June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Education Specialist (JG-9) position in the ECDEP will implement the Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program and provide services as defined in the program work plan upon execution of the CCFE contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to execute a contract with the CCFE and accept funds for the Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish funding in the grant fund 281, as follows:

Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

REVENUES

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>
420499	Other Local Source – CCFE	<u>(\$99,222)</u>
TOTAL REVENUE		(\$99,222)

APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>
500000	Personnel/Salaries	\$48,252
502000	Fringe Benefits	\$28,470
505800	Medical and Health	\$15,000

510000	Local Mileage	\$ 1,500
516020	Contractual Services	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		\$99,222

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following position be created through grant funding for the Erie County Medical Care Waste Pharmaceutical Disposal Program administered by the Department of Environment and Planning:

Environmental Education Specialist (JG-9)
 B-100 No. B10000008311
 Budgeted Annual Salary: \$48,252
 Start Date: 7/1/2015

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office; the Comptroller's Office; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the Commissioner of Personnel; Maria R. Whyte, Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, Rath Building, 10th Floor; and Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning.