ECLEG MAY11'15 AM10:12

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR MILLER-WILLIAMS

RE: Support for Funding of the Buffalo City Mission Expansion

WHEREAS, according to multiple reports, Erie County will close the books on Fiscal 2014 with a more than $9 million surplus, though not "official," this is good news for residents, taxpayers and County policymakers; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body, together with the Administration, must formulate the best use of these funds, and in an open and transparent process; understanding that while current fund balance totals about $100 million, the Erie County Charter calls for a fund balance of about $50 million; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo City Mission is an important community organization on the front lines in combatting homelessness and poverty, offering supportive services and referral, as well as providing critical shelter during Code Blue events as was seen this past winter, and in fact, the Mission provided 6,000 meals and 2,534 beds during Code Blue events this past winter for people to sleep indoors as opposed to the dangerous cold outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the Mission should be under consideration for part of this surplus in order to help the Mission's much-anticipated expansion efforts; and

WHEREAS, according to the executive director and CEO of the Buffalo City Mission, "expansion includes rehabilitating the current building into space that will include 184 emergency shelter beds, compared to 92 now. Divided into bunks, each will have 75 square feet of space, compared to the current 28 square feet of emergency shelter. The key to the $31.5 million plan, however, is a new wing of 68 permanent supportive housing units of about 475 square feet each. The mission will raise needed funds to operate the facility through private donations," he recently wrote; and

WHEREAS, this Legislative Body believes that the Buffalo City Mission warrants serious consideration for the appropriation of $150,000 of Erie County's 2014 surplus in the form of a grant to help facilitate the Mission's expansion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature declares its support for the use of $150,000 in Erie County surplus dollars to be awarded as a grant to the Buffalo City Mission to help facilitate their current expansion plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive, the Honorable Mark C. Poloncarz; and to the executive director and CEO of the Buffalo City Mission, Stuart L. Harper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive use of Erie County surplus funds, $150,000.