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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 18, 2015

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

RE: Erie County Sewer Districts
Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health
Proposed Agreement

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum from the Department of Environment and Planning pertaining to a proposed agreement with the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health to provide training to the Sewer District staff.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Joseph L. Fiegl, P.E., in the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MLP/JF/bp

C: J. Fiegl – Environment and Planning

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Sewer Districts
Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health
Proposed Agreement
Date: June 18, 2015

SUMMARY

The Department of Environment and Planning is seeking approval of an agreement with the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health (WNYCOSH) for safety training classes to be provided to Sewer District employees through a New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Hazard Abatement Board grant is requested.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no fiscal impact on Erie County's General Fund or Sewer Fund. All costs for the training will be paid by WNYCOSH.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

There is an opportunity to provide mandated safety and health training to Division of Sewerage Management staff without charge to the Sewer Districts. Without this free training, the Sewer Districts would have to provide the mandated safety and health training using their own funds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

State and federal regulations mandate specific training for sewer operation and maintenance personnel. Failure to provide this training could result in NYSDOL fines. The Erie County Sewer Districts take great pride in their safety programs. A lack of adequate training would put County employees at risk.

CONSEQUENCES OF A NEGATIVE ACTION

Any of the required training not provided through the grant will be conducted at the Sewer District's expense.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The agreement will be executed with WNYCOSH and the training initiated.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
DIVISION OF SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT

RE: Erie County Sewer Districts
Western New York Council on
Occupational Safety & Health
Proposed Agreement

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the need to properly train its employees to protect their health and well being, and to comply with applicable state and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Erie County's Division of Sewerage Management has applied for funds from the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health through a New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board training grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that an agreement between the County of Erie and the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety & Health to provide health and safety training to the Division of Sewerage Management and Sewer District employees is hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be, and hereby is, authorized to execute said agreement subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney and as to content by the Commissioner of Environment and Planning; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be authorized and directed to send one certified copy each to the County Executive, the Director of Budget and Management, Erie County Comptroller, and Kristen Walder, County Attorney; and two certified copies of this resolution to Joseph Fiegl, P.E., Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environment and Planning.