



ECLEG JUN30'15 PM 1:29

# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 30, 2015

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Workers Memorial Agreement at Chestnut Ridge Park**

Dear Honorable Members:

I am enclosing a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with the Western New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and the Buffalo Central Labor Council. This agreement would be for providing assistance and improvements to the designated Workers Memorial Site at Chestnut Ridge Park.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner, at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/med  
Enclosure

cc: Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry  
**Re:** Workers Memorial Agreement at Chestnut Ridge Park  
**Date:** June 30, 2015

---

### **SUMMARY**

An area at Chestnut Ridge Park has previously been dedicated as a Workers Memorial site. The site was never properly updated and has remained mostly unchanged since 2003. The WNY Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO has provided written interest (see attached) to not only complete the area, but also assist in some of the maintenance and future site improvements to this designated area.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Erie County Parks Department will be responsible for regular maintenance of the area and possible minor amenity costs (i.e. benches, lighting) depending on the agreement.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Workers Memorial monument will serve as a lasting memorial to all workers from Erie County who have been either killed on the job or died as a direct cause of the work they were doing. Additionally, the area will be the site to annually honor Workers Memorial Day on or around April 28<sup>th</sup> of each year. The Erie County Lands Advisory Review Committee reviewed the action against the Parks Protection Law and deemed it appropriate.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

An area was previously set aside at Chestnut Ridge Park after the AFL-CIO had expressed interest to help with improving and maintaining the site. There was never any formal agreement between Erie County and the AFL-CIO. The groups would like to enter into one in order to finish a project that was started to honor all of those Erie County workers who have been either killed on the job or died as a direct cause of the work they were doing.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Workers Memorial Site will remain unfinished.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

With the proper approval by Erie County, the AFL-CIO will be able to finish a Workers Memorial at Chestnut Ridge Park. Additionally, the AFL-CIO will be permitted to enter into an agreement with the County of Erie.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: Workers Memorial Agreement at Chestnut Ridge Park

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry received a request by the AFL-CIO to complete and provide assistance to the Workers Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park; and

WHEREAS, the Workers Memorial Site at Chestnut Ridge was constructed as a result of a cooperative venture between the Buffalo Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO and the County of Erie; and

WHEREAS, the site is ready to be re-established with a permanent monument honoring all Erie County workers who were either killed on the job or died as a direct cause of the work they were doing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is authorized to enter into an agreement with the WNY Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO for the purposes of providing assistance to the Workers Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Erie County Division of Budget and Management and the Erie County Department of Law.