SUSPENSION

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 28, 2015

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

Re: Youth Bureau Additional Programming

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to increase budgets and enter into contract with various community agencies to provide services for youth.

The NYS Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Youth Development has approved an additional $49,793 in Runaway and Homeless Youth funds for three Homeless and Runaway Youth and Transitional Independent Living Programs in Erie County.

In addition, the Youth Services department wishes to contract with the Western New York Peace Center to provide their Juvenile Justice focused anti-violence mentoring program called "Peace Jam" to the residents of the Detention Facility

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Ben Hilligas at the Erie County Youth Bureau. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/lb
Enclosure

cc: Gary Damon, Deputy Commissioner of Youth Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Youth Services
Re: Youth Bureau Additional Programming
Date: September 28, 2015

SUMMARY

The NYS Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Youth Development have approved an additional $49,793 in Runaway and Homeless Youth funds for three Homeless and Runaway Youth and Transitional Independent Living Programs in Erie County.
In addition, the Youth Services department wishes to contract with the Western New York Peace Center to provide their Juvenile Justice focused anti-violence mentoring program called "Peace Jam" to the residents of the Secure Youth Detention Facility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional county dollars are required. $49,793 will be provided by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Youth Development for the homeless and runaway youth programs The Division of Youth Services currently has an available balance of $1,890 in their professional services account to fund the "Peace Jam" program.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Division of Youth Services and the Youth Bureau work to encourage the use of community agencies to help successfully integrate youth into our community. Youth Services Division seeks to provide quality youth development programing to detained youth in order to decrease negative behaviors and promote pro-social, positive decision making.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For 2015 The NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Bureau of Youth Development (BYD) has approved an additional $49,793 in Runaway and Homeless Youth Act funds for 3 Homeless and Runaway Youth (RHY) and Transitional Independent Living Programs (TILP) in Erie County. The three agencies identified by the OCFS BYD are Compass House in the amount of $22,321 for 15 beds, The Franciscan Center in the amount of $13,736 for 8 beds and Plymouth Crossroads in the amount of $13,736 for 8 beds. These allocations are 100% reimbursable by NYS. This is a onetime addition for 2015.
The WNY Peace Center provided a Primetime funded, restorative justice focused, conflict resolution program at the Erie County Secure Youth Detention Facility during the summer of 2015. The program ended on August 28th. Youth Services would like to continue this program for the remainder of the calendar year.

The WNY Peace Center program utilizes a Juvenile Justice focused curriculum called "Peace Jam." Peace Jam is an internationally recognized program that was developed by 13 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. The program was well received by residents and staff and is reported to have helped to reduce negative behaviors in the youth residing at the facility.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Agencies will not receive additional funding to provide services to youth.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Contracts and/or contract amendments reflecting the additional funds will be executed for each agency.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

RE: Youth Bureau Additional Programming

WHEREAS, the NYS Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Youth Development has approved an additional $49,793 in Runaway and Homeless Youth funds for 3 Homeless and Runaway Youth and Transitional Independent Living Programs in Erie County, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Services division has available balances with their current budget to contract with the Western New York Peace Center to provide their Juvenile Justice focused anti-violence mentoring program called "Peace Jam" to the residents of the Secure Youth Detention Facility.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into and or amend existing contracts in order to provide additional youth programs and services though NYS Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Youth Development funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust the 2015 Budget of the Youth Bureau as follows:

Fund Center 12530 – Youth Bureau

Revenue		**Increase**
408060	Homeless Reimbursement	$49,793
Expense		
517653	Homeless Reimbursement	
	Compass House	$22,321
	The Franciscan Center	$13,736
	Plymouth Crossroads	$13,736
		$49,793
	Net Change	-0-

and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into and or amend existing contract with the Western New York Peace Center to provide anti-violence mentoring services to the residents of the Detention Facility in the amount of $1,890, funding being available in account 516020, professional services and contracts, of the Youth Services Division, and be it further

SUSPENSION

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Social Services, and the Division of Youth Services.