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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 29, 2015

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

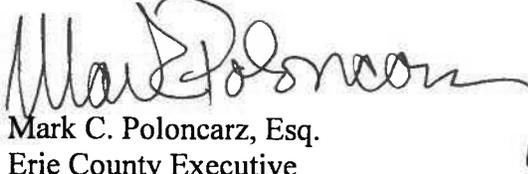
**Re: Acceptance of FY15 Port Security Grant Program**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Emergency Services requesting authorization to accept a grant and receive funding from the U.S Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency for Fiscal Year 2015 in the amount of \$122,000. Funding will be utilized to replace the Microwave Downlink System on the Erie County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit Helicopter.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Dan Neaverth Jr. at the Department of Emergency Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc  
Enclosure

cc: Dan Neaverth Jr., Department of Emergency Services

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Emergency Services  
**Re:** Acceptance of FY 15 Port Security Grant Program  
**Date:** October 29, 2015

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### **SUMMARY**

The Department of Emergency Services is seeking authorization for the County Executive to enter into contract to receive \$122,000 in Federal Assistance from the Fiscal Year 2015 Port Security Grant Program. The funding will be utilized to replace the Microwave Downlink System on the Erie County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit Helicopter. The current system is dated (10+ years) and due to technological advancements is no longer functional.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This award requires a 25 percent county match of the total approved project cost of \$162,666, which amounts to \$40,666. The 25 percent match will be transferred from the Sheriff's Office Asset Forfeiture Trust Account, therefore requiring no County tax dollars.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Emergency Services will receive funds in the amount of \$122,000 from the Department of Homeland Security and \$40,666 from the Erie County Sheriff's Office and will utilize these funds to purchase a Microwave Downlink System for the Erie County Sheriff's Office Helicopter. The Microwave Downlink System will be a valuable asset to the maritime security plan and improve the safety and security of the Port of Buffalo. This system will have the capability to provide an enormous tactical advantage in dealing with security/surveillance missions, detecting IED's, catastrophic events and terrorist attacks.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As a result of existing threats to homeland security, the federal government has allocated funds to be utilized to improve the ability of local governments to deal effectively with emergency and disaster situations. Erie County must maintain its commitment to Homeland Security and to enhance its ability to manage emergency and disaster situations.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Without this Legislation, the Port Security Fiscal Year 2015 contract will not be signed, \$122,000 in funding will not be received by the Department of Emergency Services and the opportunity to purchase this specialized equipment at no cost to County tax payers will be lost.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The County Executive will sign the contract, the \$122,000 in Homeland Security grant funds will be received, \$40,666 will be transferred from the Sheriff's Office to the

Department of Emergency Services grant fund and the Department of Emergency Services will fulfill all grant requirements.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

RE: Acceptance of FY 15 Port  
Security Grant Program

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$122,000 to Erie County under the FY 2015 Port Security Grant Program to improve areas of concern along the Port of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be utilized to purchase a Microwave Downlink System to be mounted on the Erie County Sheriff's Air Support Unit to enhance the ability of Air One to provide a tactical advantage in dealing with security/surveillance missions, detected IED's, catastrophic events and terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, authorization is required from the Erie County Legislature for the County Executive to enter into a contract and accept \$122,000 in federal resources to provide funding for the purchase of this equipment; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of this award, the County is required to contribute a cost match in the amount of \$40,666 of non-federal funds, or 25 percent of the total approved project cost of \$162,666; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office has allocated \$40,666 in matching funds from the Sheriff's Asset Forfeiture Trust Account, therefore requiring no county tax dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to accept funding in the amount of \$122,000 for the Department of Emergency Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$40,666 from the Erie County Sheriff's Office Asset Forfeiture Fund will be used to fulfill the required local match; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said funds will be utilized to enhance the ability of Erie County to manage emergency and disaster situations; 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 Emergency Services  
FY 2015 Port Security Grant Program

<u>Revenue</u>	Increase
Account 414000 Federal Aid	\$ 122,000
Account 479000 County Share Contribution	<u>\$ 40,666</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 162,666
<u>Appropriations</u>	Increase
Account 561410 Lab & Technical Equipment	<u>\$ 162,666</u>
Total Appropriations	\$ 162,666

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with federal approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Emergency Services c/o Melissa Calhoun, the County Comptroller, and the County Attorney.