

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR LORIGO**

**Re: Calling for a Public Hearing**

WHEREAS, the Syrian nation is facing a crisis through a protracted civil war and influences of terrorism organizations leading to an excess of refugees and a displacement of millions of people; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of these refugees are in desperate need of assistance and a place to stay in relative safety; and

WHEREAS, it has been the outspoken policy of our County Executive to offer assistance to upwards of two to three hundred Syrian refugees and welcome them into our county; and

WHEREAS, with the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, a need has been created to put caution to the County Executive's stance and look to review our policies, procedures, and negotiations with the federal government prior to opening our region to large numbers of refugees; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the gracious sentiment that almost all of the Syrian refugees present to our country and our citizens, acts of terrorism do not require an act of the masses; simply a few wolves dressed in sheep's clothing can cause the death of hundreds of innocent civilians; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to act and prevent a future catastrophe here in our country is now, not lamenting current decisions after tragedy has struck; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive should reevaluate his open arms stance and allow the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to complete a review of current security clearance and policies in place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby seeks to hold a public hearing regarding Erie County's role in accepting Syrian refugees, the costs and public safety concerns involved with accepting Syrian refugees to the county, and where those funds are coming from as soon as possible; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that in preparation for the above mentioned meeting this body hereby calls on the Erie County Sheriff's Office to perform a threat assessment posed by accepting Syrian refugees; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie Comptroller provide a report detailing the fiscal implications of an increased Syrian refugee population; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to County Executive Poloncarz, the Erie County Sheriff, the Erie County Comptroller, the Western New York office for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

**Fiscal Impact: None**

**Re: Amending INTRO 21-3 (2015)**

**Amend the first WHEREAS clause to read as follows:**

WHEREAS, the Syrian nation is facing a crises through a protracted civil war and influences of terrorist organizations leading to an exodus of refugees and a displacement of millions of people; and

**Delete the fifth and sixth WHEREAS clauses and replace with the following:**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature strives to responsibly gather facts and information on matters that are sensitive to the public; and

**Amend the seventh WHEREAS clause to read as follows:**

WHEREAS, the County Executive should participate in a public discussion on this highly sensitive topic.

**Delete the all the RESOLVED clauses and replace them with the following:**

RESOLVED, that this honorable body seeks to hold an informational session regarding Erie County's role in accepting Syrian refugees, particularly regarding the costs, public safety concerns, and procedure for doing so; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorably body hereby requests the presence of the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, and the Erie County Sheriff at the informational hearing to discuss the practical, fiscal, and safety concerns related to the Syrian Refugee crisis; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby requests the representatives from the local offices of the FBI and the US Department of Homeland Security be present at the informational session; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Erie County Sheriff, the regional office of the US Department of Homeland Security, the regional office of the FBI, and any party deemed necessary and proper.