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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 11, 2015

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

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

Re: Acceptance and Distribution of Federal Emergency Management Agency Aid to Fire Departments

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Emergency Services seeking authorization for the County Executive to accept and distribute Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements and any possible State reimbursements to fire departments that provided help to Erie County during the November 2014 winter storm Knife.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Dan Neaverth 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: Commissioner Dan Neaverth, Department of Emergency Services

MEMORANDUM

To:	Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From:	Department of Emergency Services
Re:	Acceptance and Distribution of Federal Emergency Management Agency Aid to Fire Departments
Date:	December 11, 2015

SUMMARY

The Department of Emergency Services is seeking authorization for the County Executive to accept and distribute Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid and possible forthcoming State aid received on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Departments that assisted Erie County during the November 2014 winter storm Knife.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None for the County; positive for fire departments.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Volunteer Fire Departments that assisted Erie County during the 2014 November Storm disaster incurred costs that FEMA aid will cover. FEMA aid covers 75% of the allowable claimed expenditures. The State may also cover the additional 25% of allowable claimed expenditures. By accepting the available aid and distributing it to the participating Volunteer Fire Departments, they can be made whole for their storm related expenses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During November 2014, record amounts of snow fell in Western New York over a five day period. Erie County found it difficult to keep up with these record amounts. Many Volunteer Fire Departments assisted Erie County during this time and incurred expenses which Erie County submitted to FEMA on their behalf. FEMA is reimbursing allowable expenditures at 75% and the State may reimburse the remaining 25% of the allowable expenditures.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The aid from the 2014 November Storm will not be accepted on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Departments and they will not be able to be reimbursed for their costs.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will accept the available aid and be able to reimburse the Volunteer Fire Departments.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

RE: Acceptance and Distribution of Federal
Emergency Management Agency Aid
to Fire Departments

WHEREAS, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid was made available to Erie County for the November 2014 winter storm Knife disaster at 75% of the total storm expenditures, along with the possibility of the remaining 25% being reimbursed by the State; and

WHEREAS, the following Volunteer Fire Departments assisted Erie County during the November Storm and submitted backup for their expenditures to Erie County:

Albion Fire Department
Alton Fire Department
Aurora Colden Fire District (West Falls Fire Company)
Barre Fire Department
Brighton Fire Department
Cayuga Heights Fire Department
City of Cortland Fire Department
Clariden Fire Department
Coeymans Hollow Fire Department
East Shelby Fire Department
East Williamson Fire Department
Elsmere Fire Department
Evans Center Fire Department
Hillburn Fire Department
Lincoln Fire Department
McLean Fire Department
Palmyra Fire Department
River Road Fire Department
Savannah Fire Department
Scranton Fire Department
Suffern Fire Department
Virgil Fire Department
Walworth Fire Department
Wolcott Fire Department

; and

WHEREAS, Erie County submitted the Volunteer Fire Departments expenditures to FEMA for reimbursement on their behalf and would like to be able to accept these funds and any possible forthcoming State funds, and distribute them to the Fire Departments accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the individual agencies receiving these reimbursements must have submitted allowable claims consistent with FEMA guidelines; and

WHEREAS, each fire agency is solely responsible for subsequent FEMA audits and compliance issues and not the County of Erie; and

WHEREAS, each agency will be responsible for any reimbursements, repayments or liabilities subsequently identified by any audit, with no liability accruing to Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to accept the FEMA and possible State disaster reimbursements on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Departments and distribute them as follows:

Albion Fire Department
Alton Fire Department
Aurora Colden Fire District (West Falls Fire Company)
Barre Fire Department
Brighton Fire Department
Cayuga Heights Fire Department
City of Cortland Fire Department
Clariden Fire Department
Coeymans Hollow Fire Department
East Shelby Fire Department
East Williamson Fire Department
Elsmere Fire Department
Evans Center Fire Department
Hillburn Fire Department
Lincoln Fire Department
McLean Fire Department
Palmyra Fire Department
River Road Fire Department
Savannah Fire Department
Scranton Fire Department
Suffern Fire Department
Virgil Fire Department
Walworth Fire Department
Wolcott Fire Department

; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to make the necessary deposit of funds into GL account 212100, fund 110, business area 167 and make the disbursements to the Volunteer Fire Departments from this same account; 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, the County Comptroller and the County Attorney.