

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 20, 2015

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

Re: **Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (April 1, 2015 –
March 31, 2017)**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning requesting authorization for the County Executive to execute a two-year agreement to accept \$250,000 in New York State Energy Research and Development Authority funding, establish a budget, and create a Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12) position.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner, Thomas R. Hersey, Jr. at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw
Enclosure

Cc: Maria R. Whyte, Commissioner

SUSPENSION

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2017)
Date: March 20, 2015

SUMMARY

The Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) is seeking authorization for the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive to execute the necessary agreements to accept \$250,000 in grant funding, establish a program budget, and create a Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12) position. The grant funding is available from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to support the development of an Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no additional impact on County resources. The requested staff position and program expenses will be funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The anticipated benefits associated with the proposed resolution are as follows:

After this two-year project, Erie County will have a Climate Action and Sustainability Plan in place which will identify projects that can be implemented to reduce the County's impact on the environment, many of which are anticipated to result in cost savings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Erie County recognizes that the potential changes caused by climate change pose serious risks to our health, economy and the environment. Increases in temperature and the resulting changes in precipitation amounts and intensity can cause increased flooding; impact our Great Lakes water levels and water quality; result in algae blooms and invasive species; increase energy demands; and create conditions conducive to air pollution and their associated impacts on health for at-risk populations.

To address this issue locally, Erie County's project will develop a Climate Action and Sustainability Plan to incorporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction into the daily culture of County employees while setting goals and objectives for GHG emissions reduction and sustainability County-wide. The plan will target County energy use, transportation, waste generation and purchasing, as well as policies that will impact the larger community. To accomplish this Erie County, which has recently signed the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, will establish a Green Team, complete a County-wide GHG inventory and analyze GHG emission sources and levels. Based on this work, Erie County will set a GHG reduction target and develop a Climate Action and Sustainability Plan.

In 2006 the Erie County Legislature adopted the Framework for Regional Growth (FRG). It serves as the County's Comprehensive Plan and provides a blueprint for the area's physical development. The Erie County Sustainability Plan will update the FRG by incorporating the
Comm 6E-8
Page 2 of 5

SUSPENSION

Climate Action and Sustainability Plan, which will include Smart Growth principles and information related to climate resiliency.

The funding of this program will allow DEP to create a Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12) position to manage the grant and act as the County's Sustainability Coordinator, providing leadership for the Erie County Green Team.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The DEP will forfeit NYSERDA funding and be unable to access the grant resources to create an Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The necessary contracts with NYSERDA will be executed, a budget will be established, and a Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12) position will be created.

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Erie County Climate Action and
Sustainability Plan (April 1, 2015
– March 31, 2017)

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) has played a crucial role in pollution prevention and sustainability issues throughout the region for decades; and

WHEREAS, DEP is committed to creating an internal sustainability plan for county operations; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides grant assistance to county governments to implement sustainability projects; and

WHEREAS, Erie County applied for a NYSERDA grant to support the Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, Erie County was awarded a NYSERDA grant to receive \$250,000 in funding to create an Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, this necessitates the execution of a contract with NYSERDA, the adoption of a grant budget, and the creation of a Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12) position within the DEP which will be 100 % grant funded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements to accept a grant of \$250,000 from NYSERDA for the purpose of establishing a two-year “Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan” project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the grant budget and project period for the “Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan” project is hereby created in the Department of Environment and Planning, Business Area 162, Fund 281 as follows:

Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2017),
SAP Grant Account #162ECCASP1517

REVENUE:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
409000	State Aid Revenue	(\$250,000)
TOTAL REVENUE		(\$250,000)

SUSPENSION

APPROPRIATIONS:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
500000	Personnel Services	\$142,000
502000	Fringe Benefits	\$ 88,040
510100	Out of Area Travel	\$ 9,000
530000	Other	<u>\$ 10,960</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:		\$250,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following position, for which sufficient funding through NYSERDA grant funding for personal services and fringe benefits exists, will be created in the above grant:

Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-12)
B-100 No. 000 000 8169
Budgeted Annual Salary: \$71,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements to accept a grant of \$250,000 from NYSERDA for the purpose of creating an "Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan" project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the County Comptroller; Maria R. Whyte, Commissioner of Environment and Planning; Thomas Hersey, Jr., Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning; and Bonnie Lawrence, Coordinator – Pollution Prevention Program.