

SUSPENSION
A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR LORIGO

Re: Support for Additional Funding for Explore & More's Children's Museum

WHEREAS, for years Explore & More Children's Museum has been located in East Aurora and has been a highly valued organization; and

WHEREAS, early this year Explore & More, based on its track record of growth and sustainability, was selected by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation to be an anchor attraction on Buffalo's waterfront; and

WHEREAS, to effectuate its move to construct the new location, Explore & More needs \$10 million in capital funding; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature recently met with representatives of Explore & More and viewed a presentation that stated Explore & More has reached over 60% of its \$10 million goal; and

WHEREAS, the move downtown will be a boon to the waterfront development and residents of the entire county; and

WHEREAS, the county's undesignated fund balance is anticipated to top \$100 million, far exceeding the mandatory minimum of \$50 million; and

WHEREAS, it is also expected that, despite the increased costs of the November Storm and our brutal winter, the county will have a large surplus from the 2014 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the county should make every effort to return reasonable amounts of those funds to the taxpayers and residents of Erie County, including assisting organizations, such as Explore and More that benefit the entire community; and

WHEREAS, helping the Explore & More Museum expand will be a benefit to the City of Buffalo, the development of Canalside and the Buffalo waterfront, and the residents of the County of Erie.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body encourages the County Executive efficiently allocate the generous surplus the county will have from 2014; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that pending a large surplus for the 2014 fiscal year, this honorable body hereby requests that the County Executive transfer \$2 million to Explore & More to fund its capital campaign; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive, the Department of Environment and Planning, the Department of Budget and Management, Nancy Montone the Director of Development at the Explore & More Museum, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution.