



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 20, 2016

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Expanded Lead Poisoning Prevention Services**

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to amended Communication 6E-8 and Communication 7E-17, this resolution seeks to formalize the creation of positions related to the Expanded Lead Poisoning Prevention Services proposal, and to make the necessary budget adjustments to support the proposal.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Budget Director Robert Keating. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

bqs  
Enclosure

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Health  
**Re:** Expanded Lead Poisoning Prevention Services  
**Date:** May 20, 2016

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### **SUMMARY**

Authorization is requested to fund eight (8) new positions and various support costs in the Erie County Department of Health's Division of the Public Health Lab (which oversees Environmental Health) for the Expanded Lead Poisoning Prevention Services initiative.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total cost of this proposal is estimated at \$750,000 annually. Funds are available through a designation and rollover of 2015 funds into 2016 via Communication 7E-17.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The goal of this proposal is to supplement Erie County's existing lead programs with additional resources to increase the number of properties the Erie County Department of Health can inspect each year, and to provide better intervention for children with lower blood lead level elevations still deemed potentially harmful (5-9 mcg/dl).

This expanded services proposal would fund the following staff and materials:

**Senior Investigation Public Health Sanitarian.** One (1) position. This day-to-day program supervisor will manage new staff, coordinate referral of properties for inspection, and assist in enforcement action including serving as a liaison to housing court.

**Investigating Public Health Sanitarian.** Five (5) positions. These positions are the field staff who will supplement the existing grant funded inspectors. They will identify units county-wide with lead hazards, prepare violation notices, respond to referrals, and work closely with existing program staff to visit homes and provide intervention for children with elevated blood lead levels 5-14 mcg/dl.

**Principal Clerk.** One (1) position. These programs generate a great amount of paperwork. This clerk will prepare court documents, mail notices, etc.

**Registered Nurse.** One (1) position. This nurse will be dedicated to providing case-management for children with lower but still dangerous blood lead level elevations of 5-9 and will help put Erie County ahead of the curve.

**Lead Safe Work Materials.** \$20,000 per year will be allocated for primer, plastic, Tyvek suits, etc. so property owners *outside* of lead primary target zip codes can remediate lead paint issues on their own.

**Window Fund.** Funds not utilized in earlier years of the program (due to lower steps and lower fringe rates) will be allocated towards a fund to provide low interest loans or grants for window replacement based on a sliding income scale. Windows are often the number one source of lead poisoning in a home.

**Assorted Expenses.** Various additional costs like office supplies, mileage, IT services and equipment will be needed as well.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Erie County Department of Health would be limited in its ability to perform lead poisoning primary prevention outside of target ZIP codes in the City of Buffalo, and would be limited in its ability to perform intervention in cases where a child's blood elevation level was below 10 mcg/dl.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Personnel and the Comptroller's Office to implement this request.

## A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Expanded Lead Poisoning Prevention Services

WHEREAS, lead paint was used predominantly throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century until its ban in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo and its surrounding metro area have the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest housing stock in the United States leading to a wide proliferation of lead paint and lead paint dust; and

WHEREAS, the dangers of lead poisoning are well documented and researched; and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning in children may lead to developmental delay, learning difficulties, and a permanent reduction in IQ; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature stated its commitment to combating lead poisoning in Communication 6E-8; and

WHEREAS, funding has been made available for this proposal through Communication 7E-17 2015 Year-End Budget Balancing Amendments and Designations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one full time position of Senior Investigating Public Health Sanitarian JG 10, Step 0 (\$40,402 annual salary) in the CSEA bargaining unit (B-100 #8653) and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of five full time positions of Investigating Public Health Sanitarian JG 8 Step 0 (\$35,025 annual salary) in the CSEA bargaining unit (B-100 #8654); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one full time position of Principal Clerk JG 7, Step 0, (\$32,616 annual salary) in the CSEA bargaining unit (B-100 #8655); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one full time position of Registered Nurse JG 8, Step 1 (\$49,541 annual salary) in the NYSNA bargaining unit (B-100 #8656); and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to transfer in 2015 an amount totaling \$750,000 to expense designated for the Health Department and then to re-appropriate such funding into the 2016 Budget as follows:

Fund 110 - 2016 Budget  
12730 – Public Health Lab Division

Expense Accounts	Increase
500000 Full Time Salaries	\$ 223,263
502000 Fringe Benefits	133,958
501000 Overtime	20,000
505000 Office Supplies	2,000
505800 Medical and Health Supplies	30,000
510000 Local Mileage Reimbursement	12,000
561420 Office Equipment	15,000
516020 Professional Svs Contracts & Fees	313,779
Total	\$750,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Director of Budget and Management to establish designations in 2015 for the amounts indicated above and to re-appropriate said funds into 2016, and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management and Department of Personnel to make the necessary budgetary and personnel adjustments to effectuate this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.