ECLEG MAY23'16 AM10:33

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS LORIGO & BURKE

RE: Improving Erie County's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

WHEREAS, Erie County has the highest rate of childhood lead poisoning in the nation with fourteen percent of our children having elevated levels of lead detected in blood samples; and

WHEREAS, the long term health consequences of lead poisoning are well documented and impact not only the affected child and their family but the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is committed to improving the efficacy of Erie County's lead poisoning prevention program; and

WHEREAS, of the 85,000 homes that require lead inspection, 2,000 - 2500 homes are inspected each year, which would take over to forty years to address at the current rate; and

WHEREAS, of the homes inspected, it is estimated that health inspectors only gain interior access twenty-five percent of the time, leaving approximately seventy-five percent of inspections limited to exterior analysis, which may provide incorrect information regarding the presence of lead in homes across Erie County; and

WHEREAS, this is also a significant problem in one and two family apartments which are not subject to state requirements regarding the presence of lead in the building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that all municipalities wishing to utilize Erie County lead inspection services must establish a policy that allows for inspectors to gain access into the home; and

RESOLVED, that Erie County Department of Social Services withhold financial assistance to landlords who do not allow reasonable access to their property for the purposes of a lead inspection; and

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive, the Honorable Mark Poloncarz; Commissioner of Social Services, Al Dirschberger; all supervisors and mayors of towns, villages and cities within Erie County, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None