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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202**

TO: Members of the Erie County Legislature

FROM: Karen M. McCarthy, Clerk

DATE: May 26, 2016

SUBJECT WNY Amateur Football Alliance Comment on LL Intro. 2-3 (2016)

The attached remarks were received from the WNY Amateur Football Alliance on Local Law Intro. 2-3 (2016) A LL Preventing Head Trauma from Concussions in Youth Sports.

McCarthy, Karen

From: Bill Sivecz <ajfc2000@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 3:44 PM
To: Grant, Betty; Miller-Williams, Barbara; Savage, Peter; Thomas.Lougran@erie.gov; Rath, Hon. Edward; Burke, Hon. Patrick; Morton, Hon. Ted; Dixon, Hon. Lynne; Lorigo, Joseph; Mills, Hon. John; McCarthy, Karen
Subject: Local Law Intro 2_3_2016

Western New York Amateur Football Alliance
3272 Dartmouth Street
Hamburg, New York 14075

May 26, 2015

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the Western New York Amateur Football Alliance, I am writing to advise you of the Alliance's position regarding Erie County Local Law Intro #2-3-2016.

WNYAFA is supportive of the intent of the proposed local law; however we do have some reservations regarding the mechanics of the legislation. The Alliance represents six Youth Football Leagues throughout western New York and is comprised of seventy-four football organizations. Since 2013, in conjunction with the Buffalo Bills, the National Football League and USA Football, WNYAFA has been sponsoring USA Football *Heads Up* programs for all of our members. In the past year alone we have unwritten the cost for over 1,000 youth football coaches to be Heads Up certified. Our concussion awareness initiative is in addition to our other programs we sponsor such as criminal background checks, youth sports psychology, and scholar athlete recognition. While the USA Football program mirrors that of the CDC, it is more comprehensive in that it includes:

- Annual coach certification – with both online and in person training
- Concussion Recognition & Response
- Concussion protocols
- Heat Preparedness & Hydration
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Proper Equipment Fitting
- Heads Up Tackling®
- Heads Up Blocking

The Alliance's reservation with Local Law Intro #2-3-2016 is with Section 4a and 4b; calling for certification through the Erie County Health Department or as an alternative, the CDC or NFHS concussion programs. It is important for coaches to recognize and respond to concussion injuries, it is however vitally important for those responsible for teaching the young athletes the techniques of the sport to be cognizant of proper, safe fundamentals and procedures. The fact is, youth sports coaches are volunteer parents; in most cases they learned football years ago while in high school or college. None of the programs the local law identifies as acceptable training provides the level or depth of training that the USA Football Heads Up program provides. Player safety is of paramount importance to the Western New York Youth Football Alliance; we urge the Legislature to include the USA Football Heads Up program as an acceptable alternative to those presently included in the proposed local law.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM P SIVECZ, CYSA
Treasurer

WNYAFA Comm. 11D-2
Page 2 of 2