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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
June 17, 2016

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

RE: Erie County Public Health Lab – Revised Testing Schedule

Dear Honorable Members:

Over the past year, the Erie County Health Laboratory has taken proactive steps to become a regional center for public health testing by improving the quantity and quality of tests that it can provide. Be it a suspicious white powder, a water sample from a regional beach, or the pH of an unknown compound, the Erie County Public Health lab is working to provide high quality testing services to not just Erie County but all of Western New York.

As part of the work being done by the lab, additional new testing services have been developed and are ready to offered to our clients. The fees in the attached resolution will allow the Lab to continue to provide fairly priced tests, while still complying with New York State Public Health Law Article VI requirements to charge fees equivalent to real costs.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein, MD. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP: bqs
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Erie County Public Health Lab New Testing Services Fees
Date: June 17, 2016

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to add new testing services and fees to the existing fee schedule for the Erie County Public Health Lab, allowing the department to preform new testing services that have recently been developed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Positive. Offering these new tests and services will generate additional revenue for the County.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Over the past two years, the Erie County Department of Health has taken steps to make the Erie County Public Health Lab more fiscally sound and relevant to the community, while turning the lab into a regional testing center for public health needs. These new fees represent additional clinical and environmental testing services to be offered to the community in the interest of public health and safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Article VI of the New York State Public Health Law requires local municipalities seeking state reimbursement to make their best effort to charge fees comparable to their actual costs of providing services. As a result, the Erie County Department of Health must evaluate the fees it charges for various services—especially new services—including laboratory testing.

Careful research of internal costs, as well as the laboratory testing market, was conducted to generate the appropriate fees for these new services that would not only meet New York State Article VI requirements but also remain fair and reasonable to the community at large.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Public Health lab would be unable to offer our communities and the entire Western New York region these new tests.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Information and Support Services and the Comptroller's Office to implement this request and take the appropriate steps necessary to implement the new services fee schedule.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: New Services Fee Schedule-Erie County Department of Health Public Health Laboratory

WHEREAS, New York State Public Health Law, Article 6, require that in order for a county to receive State Aid it must charge for services at a rate comparable to the cost of providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Health Department currently charges fees for Environmental Health, Medical Examiner, Public Health Laboratory and Clinical services under a fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amended fee schedule will generate revenues which will be directly applied to offset the cost of providing these programs; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that this action will result in an annual revenue increase as a result of additional services offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby adopts the proposed fee schedule revisions effective July 1, 2016 as follows:

Public Health Laboratory Fees and Charges

Clinical Testing	Service status	Fee
Trichomonas vaginalis, amplified probe	NEW	\$47.80
Environmental Testing	Service status	Fee
Endotoxin Detection (LAL assay)	NEW	\$35.00
Microcystin (EPA 544)	NEW	\$250.00
Cylindrospermopsin/Anatoxin (EPA 545)	NEW	\$175

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will 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.