



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. JOHN J. MILLS
CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE
11TH DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

June 9, 2016

Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive
95 Franklin St – 16th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Executive Poloncarz,

Monday, June 6th, your office issued a statement announcing your appointment of Karen King as the Executive Director of the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women (Commission). I would like to congratulate Ms. King and I am sure she will do a tremendous job.

The Legislature is not looking to get in the way of the work done by the Commission nor hold up the seating of the Commission's Director. However, I am concerned by the method in which Ms. King was appointed to the Director of the Commission on the Status of Women. Pursuant to Section 1704 of the Erie County Charter the Director of the Division of the Status of Women should be appointed by the Commissioner of the Office of Public Advocacy, not the County Executive.

The Office of Public Advocacy does not currently have a Commissioner, which is a position the Executive is empowered to appoint. It is improper for your office to appoint the Director of the Division of the Status of Women as per the Erie County Charter.

I would ask that you follow appropriate procedure and appoint a Commissioner of Public Advocacy, who then can appoint the Executive Director of the Division of the Status of Women.

Additionally, I have not been able to locate this position in the 2016 Budget and I have some concerns related to how the County is funding it. Please have someone available at the next Finance & Management Committee, June 16, 2016 at 12:30 pm, to answer questions regarding this position.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John J. Mills".

John J. Mills
Chairman of the Erie County Legislature