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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 7, 2016

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Application for New York State Climate Smart Communities Funding:
Food Waste Composting at the Erie County Correctional Facility**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to authorize the filing of an application for funding from the New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program to start a food composting program at the Erie County Correctional Facility and to authorize the County Executive to sign the resulting contract if the application is approved.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence in the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw
Enclosure

cc: Thomas Hersey, Jr., Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Environment and Planning
Re: Application for New York State Climate Smart Communities Funding:
Food Waste Composting at the Erie County Correctional Facility
Date: July 7, 2016

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Legislature approve the attached resolution prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) to authorize the submittal of an application for state funds to implement a food composting program at the Erie County Correction Facility in Alden which may also service food and other biodegradable wastes from the Holding Center, Youth Detention Facility, Parks and other County facilities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to applying for the grant.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Sheriff's Office representative on the County Green Team has expressed interest in composting food waste at their correctional facilities rather than discard as garbage. One of the initiatives for funding through the Climate Smart Communities competitive grant program specifically targets food waste composting.

This state funding would provide the contribution toward creating this type of program which would also teach a valuable skill to inmates and complement the existing Inmate Horticultural and Inmate Urban Garden Programs at the Erie County Correctional Facility.

Recycling organic materials by composting reduces the generation of greenhouse gases; creates soil amendments, energy and jobs; can save landfill space and reduces reliance on waste disposal. The soil amendments created by the composting process will be utilized within the Erie County Correctional Facility and at other County locations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As outlined in Erie County's Economic Development Plan, "Initiatives for a Smart Economy", the development of an inter-departmental Green Team focusing on energy reduction and resource conservation throughout Erie County operations is a priority in the revitalization of our community and economy. We have established a Green Team to identify projects that will decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prevent pollution, reduce waste and save money throughout the County's daily operations.

To accomplish this, Erie County is completing a County-wide GHG inventory and analyze GHG emission sources and levels. Based on this work, Erie County will set GHG reduction targets and develop a Climate Action & Sustainability Plan to incorporate GHG emission reduction into the

daily culture of County employees. The plan will target County energy use, transportation, waste generation and purchasing.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

At this time, there are no other sources for such a project.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Application will be submitted.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Application for New York State Climate Smart Communities Funding:
Food Waste Composting at the Erie County Correctional Facility

WHEREAS recycling organic materials by composting reduces the generation of greenhouse gases; creates soil amendments, energy and jobs; and reduces reliance on waste disposal; and

WHEREAS Erie County's Green Team is integral in creating the Climate Action and Sustainability Plan as part of the NYSERDA contract granted April 16, 2015 (COMM.6E-8 (2015)); and

WHEREAS the Erie County Sheriff's Office is in full support of the application to begin composting of food waste at the Erie County Correctional Facility in Alden, NY; and

WHEREAS, the Jail Management Division's Service Action Corp and participating inmates will assist with site's development, management, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the program will train Service Action Corps inmates in the process of composting while providing education about the importance of food waste reduction; and

WHEREAS, the material produced through the composting process will be utilized by the Service Action Corps, the Inmate Horticultural program, the Inmate Urban Garden Program at the correctional facility, and various county departments can utilize the material at County owned parks and facilities; and

WHEREAS, there is adequate acreage at the Erie County Correctional Facility to support a composting site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby support the Department of Environment and Planning's application for grant funding for a food composting project at the Erie County Correctional Facility through the Climate Smart Communities initiative; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that Erie County commits that if awarded the grant, it will agree to the use of property for the purpose of composting food waste; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be provided for the County Executive; the County Attorney; Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Commissioner of Environment and Planning; Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning, Erie County Sheriff's Office.