



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 8, 2014

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

RE: Medical Examiner's Office- Transfer of Funds

Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to appropriate funds within the Health Department Division of the Public Health Lab. The additional funding is required in order to cover higher than budgeted expenses in account 516020 Professional Svs Contracts & Fees and account 505800 Medical & Health Supplies. The increased cost resulted from the significant increase in cases related to the opioid epidemic.

Funds are available through increased revenue in account 415000 Medical Examiner's Fees due to a new contract to provide pathology services for Genesee County.

Should your honorable body require further information, please contact Dr. Gale Burstein in the Department of Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP:bqs
Enclosure
cc: Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Medical Examiner's Office - Transfer of Funds
Date: July 8, 2014

SUMMARY

This resolution seeks to allocate an increase of \$55,000 in Medical Examiner's Fees Funds from a new contract to provide pathology services for Genesee County in order to cover higher than budgeted expense in the Professional Svs Contracts & Fees and Medical & Health Supplies accounts. The increased cost is related to an extremely heavy caseload linked to the opioid epidemic.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget neutral. Increased expenses can be covered by additional revenue generated by a new contract with Genesee County.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Even anticipating an increase in opioid related deaths from 2015, the Medical Examiner's Office did not budget for a 100% increase in overdose cases and therefore the utilization of additional revenue to cover increased expenses is necessary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a result of the opioid crisis, Erie County has seen a dramatic spike in overdose fatalities. These suspicious deaths fall under the purview of the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office. With opioid overdose deaths now far outnumbering murders, suicides, and even automotive fatalities, this is a significant burden on the office resulting in shortfalls in the two mentioned accounts.

Specifically, the shortfall in the Medical & Health Supplies account is linked to a spike in toxicological testing, while the shortfall in Professional Svs Contracts & Fees is due to the extra billing hours of a Fee-For-Service Pathologist who is brought in to cover the additional caseload.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the above transfer would result in shortfalls of the mentioned accounts. The Medical Examiner's Office would be unable to complete cases, and will run out of supplies needed to conduct toxicological testing.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management to take the appropriate steps necessary to transfer the funds into the proper accounts.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Medical Examiner's Office - Transfer of Funds

WHEREAS, insufficient funds exist to pay for fee-for-service pathologist services and to purchase testing supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has analyzed its objects of expense and has determined that in that in Account 516020 Professional Svs Contracts & Fees expenditures will exceed appropriations by \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has analyzed its objects of expense and has determined that in that in Account 505800 Medical & Health Supplies expenditures will exceed appropriations by \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, a transfer of funds must be made in order to fulfill our commitment to provide timely pathological examinations of the deceased and conduct toxicological testing; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in Account 41500 Medical Examiner's Fees from a new contract to provide pathology services for Genesee County to accommodate this request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby approve the following transactions within the accounts of the Department of Health:

**Health Department
Medical Examiner's Division
Fund Center 12740**

<u>REVENUE</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>
415000 Medical Examiners Fees		<u>\$55,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$55,000</u>
<u>EXPENSE</u>		
505800 Medical & Health Supplies		\$35,000
516020 Professional Svs Contracts & Fees		<u>\$20,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$55,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to make any required budgetary adjustments to implement the budgetary actions and appropriations authorized in this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, and to the and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner in the Erie County Department of Health, 9th Floor, Rath Building.