



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 11, 2016

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

RE: Erie County Health Department Public Health Lab Division- Personnel Adjustments

Dear Honorable Members:

The Department of Health's Division of the Public Health Lab is seeking a modest personnel adjustment to reflect changing needs in staffing as the lab takes on additional responsibilities for Correctional Health and offers new and valuable tests for the public and other governmental agencies.

These adjustments will bear a small upfront cost but that cost will be defrayed in 2016 by vacancy savings and this adjustment is expected to assist the lab in generating additional revenue long-term.

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 that reads "Mark 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 Health Division of the Public Health Lab- Personnel Adjustments
Date: July 11, 2016

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to delete one vacant full time JG-5 position to create one regular part time JG-9 position.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal would cost the Public Health Lab an additional \$1,687 in salary annually. Funding for the remainder of 2016 is available from vacancy savings in the Public Health Lab's full time salary line.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

As the Public Health Lab expands the testing services it provides to the community, the addition of a secondary supervisor for the laboratory will be helpful accommodate expanded testing. By deleting one vacant full time JG-5 position of Lab Assistant, funding can be secured to create a regular part time JG-9 position of Chief Laboratory Technologist (Public Health). This will allow Erie County to retain important lab leadership, and better meet demands for expanded testing services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For the past two years the Public Health Laboratory has been working to expand existing diagnostic laboratory capabilities in order to better serve and support other County Health divisions and the greater community, and to expand its client base in both the public and private sectors.

Your honorable body approved a fee schedule for included several new tests in 2015, and a fee schedule for several additional news tests is pending approval at this time. These new tests will bring in additional revenue to the Public Health Lab, while providing Erie County municipalities, businesses and citizens with valuable new options for environmental testing.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Division of the Public Health Lab would have somewhat diminished ability to handle changing workflow.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management and the Department of Personnel to implement this request.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Erie County Health Department Public Health Lab-Personnel Adjustments

WHEREAS, the Division of Public Health Laboratories is responsible for providing laboratory support for regional public health and environmental activities; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Laboratory provides analysis of potable water, non-potable water and environmental samples for harmful chemical, bacteriological and toxicological agents to several local municipalities, private agencies and citizens as well as to neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Laboratory Response Network the laboratory provides high complexity emergency preparedness testing for biological agents associated with bioterrorism as well as emerging and re-emerging infection agents that may be significant in public health outbreaks and pandemic disease; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Laboratory is undergoing a multi-year effort to expand its testing capabilities to better serve the public health testing needs of Western New York; and

WHEREAS, periodic restructuring of the Division of the Public Health Laboratory allows the Division to provide the best programmatic services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one regular part time position of Chief Laboratory Technologist (Public Health), JG-9, Step C (\$31,789 annual salary) in the CSEA bargaining unit (B-100 #8707); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of Budget and Management shall delete the full time position of Laboratory Assistant, JG-5, Step 1 (\$30,102 annual salary) in the CSEA bargaining unit (B-100 #8707); and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Division of Budget and Management, and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.