



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 8, 2016

Hon. Joseph Lorigo
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo New York 14202

Dear Legislator Lorigo,

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated July 5, 2016. As County Executive I am always concerned with getting accurate, objective and truthful information to the residents of Erie County, as presumably you also are, and will seek to take advantage of any possible avenue to do so.

It is heartening to hear that you enjoy an "excellent working relationship with DPW, as well as other county departments", and I hope you'll elaborate further on which departments those are in your next letter. It is true that DPW does a good job and serves county residents well, as do all of our departments to the best of their abilities.

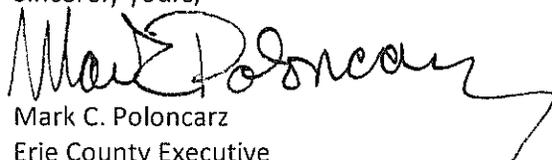
It is also surprising to hear that you were not aware of a long-standing policy regarding communications between county departments and legislators, a policy which was initiated by my predecessor and which continues today. That policy creates a clear conduit for communications between the executive and legislative branch of government, at once allowing our employees to focus on doing their jobs without distraction while allowing for clear dialogue between our offices.

Please allow this correspondence to clear the matter up from my perspective.

Commissioners and departmental representatives, including Mr. Geary, are valued individuals with jobs to perform and responsibilities to the people of Erie County. These hard-working men and women are busy every day fulfilling their departments' mission and serving our residents. Any "unnecessary red tape" such as you refer to occurs when these individuals are taken away from their required jobs to answer questions, return emails, conduct tours, or perform other tasks that decrease the amount of actual work they can complete. My predecessor, realizing that employees needed to be able to focus solely on their jobs, instituted a communications policy requiring legislative inquiries about programs, services, or projects be directed to the administration rather than our employees. While that policy has been overlooked in the past, please be advised that it remains in effect and that all your inquiries should be directed to my Legislative Liaison, Jonathan Rivera.

If you would like to discuss road conditions in your district with me, or any issue for that matter, my door is open. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,



Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Executive