

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 14, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

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

RE: Appointment of James Michel to Commissioner of Central Police Service

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter formally withdraws my appointment of Mr. James Michel to the position of Commissioner of Central Police Services.

This morning I received a copy of a Lackawanna Police Department investigation summary dated July 2, 1999 concerning alleged inappropriate conduct from then-Lt. Michel towards a subordinate female employee. Had this information been available to me at the time of his recommendation from the Erie County Central Police Services Board of Trustees, I would not have recommended Mr. Michel to serve as Central Police Services Commissioner. My administration has no tolerance for sexist, hostile conduct towards anyone, lest of all from senior officials.

I am concerned that the Erie County Central Police Services Board of Trustees' vetting process was insufficient as this allegation and report were not discovered. Going forward I will be requesting the Board of Trustees examine how their vetting process can be strengthened before making formal recommendations to this or any future administration.

Erie County residents deserve the best possible leadership from the County's department heads, and I remain committed to appointing the highest quality candidates.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

cc: Erie County Central Police Services Board of Trustees