

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

THOMAS A. LOUGHRAN
Minority Leader
 Legislator - 5th District



NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE
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September 9, 2016

Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz
 Erie County Executive
 95 Franklin St.
 Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear County Executive Poloncarz,

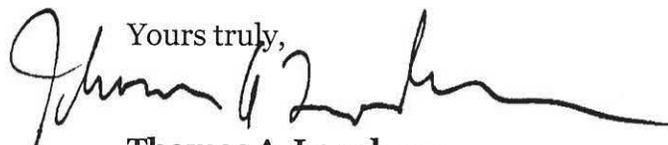
Please accept this letter as my request that you veto LL Intro 12-2, a document that I believe will disserve the Erie County public.

Attached is a copy of my letter to Chair Mills requesting a public hearing on LL Intro 12-1 which would amend the Erie County Charter with appropriate provisions presented by the Charter Revision Committee absent the provision to increase the term of office for County Legislators from two to four years.

The record will show that Chair Mills presented the request to his caucus and found there was no interest to support a public hearing on LL Intro 12-1 thereby killing the opportunity to vote on Charter reform without creating a four year term. That scheme leaves the voter to face only LL Intro 12-2, the creation of a four year term with a frosting of some honest provisions.

The issue at stake is legislative accountability! This lengthened term of office sharply reduces accountability to the public. At a time when faith in legislative performance is at a shocking low point, embedding a longer term of office in a package of otherwise appropriate changes to the Erie County Charter would seem to most voters to be in the least an insult.

For an additional thought on this matter, I take you to Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution that sets a standard for legislative assemblies with the words "..... shall be composed of Members chosen every second year by the People.....". This should remind us all that the Founding Fathers gave high priority to legislative accountability. Why can't we!

Yours truly,


Thomas A. Loughran
 Erie County Legislator
 5th District

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August 24, 2016

Hon. John J. Mills, Chair
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St., 4th Fl.
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Chair Mills,

I understand that a public hearing with respect to Local Law Int. 12-1 (2016) has not yet been scheduled. I submit this letter to you as a request to schedule a public hearing on LL Int. 12-1 as soon as possible.

It is important to both the Legislature and to the public to have an opportunity to support Charter reform with or without a four year term of office for county legislators. I am among those who strongly believe that a two year term of office for legislators increases accountability in that it allows the electorate to retire or retain their representatives based on performance.

It is clear that LL Int. 12-1 without a public hearing will not be considered and therefore the only remaining option is Local Law Int. 12-2 (2016), a Charter Amendment containing a four year term of office which will surely diminish legislative accountability.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Loughran", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas A. Loughran
Erie County Legislator
5th District