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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 25, 2016

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Contract with the City of Buffalo for Renovation of Facilities at the Buffalo Museum of Science

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the execution of contracts with the City of Buffalo for the expansion of the City-owned Buffalo Museum of Science. The Department of Environment and Planning anticipates contracting with the City of Buffalo which will then bid the project for construction.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Mark Rountree, Senior Planner, at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw
Enclosures

C: Thomas R. Hersey, Jr., Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Contract with the City of Buffalo for Renovation of Facilities at the Buffalo Museum of Science
Date: November 25, 2016

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature authorize the County Executive to enter into contracts with the City of Buffalo for the purpose of construction services for the renovation of the City-owned Buffalo Museum of Science.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed funding of not-to-exceed $500,000.00 will come from Erie County Capital Budget funds in the approved 2016 Erie County Budget, Project #A.16023.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

One of the most important issues for Erie County is the need to foster tourism and the increase in the local economy based on visitors from outside the area. The Buffalo Museum of Science is a key ingredient to drawing thousands of outside visitors to Erie County. The historic structure erected in 1929 is in need of interior improvement to modernize the building to address aging components and improve overall accessibility for all members of the public. The proposed improvement will include improvements to the 4th floor to increase public access and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and extensive electrical improvements which are needed on the 87-year old structure. The improvements will help increase the growth of visitors to this important attraction.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City of Buffalo Department of Public Works has staff that are experienced in contracting for City-owned building projects. The City will be able to bid and oversee the work in a responsible manner.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If a resolution to enter into a contract is not approved, Erie County and the City of Buffalo will not be able to complete this work. The renovation of the Museum of Science will not occur, A.D.A. compliance will continue to be an issue, and the historic structure's electrical systems will continue to deteriorate.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval of the resolution, contracts will be prepared with the City of Buffalo and bidding for the Renovation of the Museum of Science will occur.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed item has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office and is related to an authorized capital project #A.16023 for which there are sufficient appropriations for the action requested.

Signed: _____ Date: 11/17/16

Name: Gregory G Card

Title: Deputy Comptroller

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Contract with the City of Buffalo for Renovation of Facilities at the Buffalo Museum of Science

WHEREAS, the County of Erie is interested in the fostering of tourism and the improvement of this historic structure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo owns the property which is used for the Buffalo Museum of Science on Humboldt Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the subject property is leased to the Buffalo Museum of Science, which in turn manages day-to-day operation of the museum; and

WHEREAS, Erie County desires to fund interior improvements to the Buffalo Museum of Science; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo has extensive experience in contracting for construction projects; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie has allocated $500,000 for renovation of the Museum of Science in the Capital Budget section of the approved 2016 Erie County budget – Project #A.16023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into contracts with the City of Buffalo, the Museum of Science, and as necessary, other state and federal agencies, in amounts not to exceed a total of $500,000 for the purpose of Renovation of the City-owned Museum of Science; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the source of these funds shall be $500,000 available in the Erie County Capital Budget for 2016, Project #A.16023; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the Comptroller; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; and the County Attorney.