



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 29, 2016

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Division of Family Independence  
NYS Executive Order 151  
Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather**

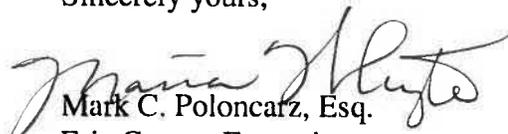
Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution will bring the Erie County Department of Social Services in full compliance of Executive Order 151 - Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather. This Executive Order adds significant new responsibilities to the Department of Social Services when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below, including extending shelter hours, allowing individuals who are homeless to remain indoors, instructing homeless service outreach workers to work with other relevant personnel and working with local police in relation to the involuntarily transport of at-risk individuals who refuse to go inside and who appear to be at-risk for cold related injuries to appropriate facilities for assessment.

This resolution will authorize the County Executive and/or the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to accept reimbursement from New York State and enter into contracts with the City Mission and Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. It also authorizes the Director of Budget and Management to make budget revisions, appropriate additional unanticipated revenues, and transfer funds necessary to cover the costs of the aforementioned contracts.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Al Dirschberger at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb  
Enclosure

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Erie County Department of Social Services – Division of Family Independence  
**Re:** NYS Executive Order 151 - Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather  
**Date:** January 29, 2016

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### **SUMMARY**

This resolution will authorize the County Executive and/or the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to accept reimbursement from New York State and enter into contracts with the City Mission and Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. to provide services when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No fiscal implications are expected as the Department of Social Services anticipates to be fully reimbursed by New York State.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

This resolution will bring the Department of Social Services in compliance with Executive Order 151.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The attached resolution will bring the Erie County Department of Social Services in full compliance of Executive Order 151 - Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather. This Executive Order adds significant new responsibilities to the Department of Social Services when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below, including extending shelter hours, allowing individuals who are homeless to remain indoors, instructing homeless service outreach workers to work with other relevant personnel and working with local police in relation to the involuntarily transport of at-risk individuals who refuse to go inside and who appear to be at-risk for cold related injuries to appropriate facilities for assessment. City Mission and the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. are the two agencies in Erie County that can provide these critical services.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Erie County will not be in compliance with Executive Order 151 and not fulfilling its mandated responsibilities.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Erie County will enter into contracts with City Mission and the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE DIVISION

RE: NYS Executive Order 151 - Homelessness  
During Inclement Winter Weather

WHEREAS, Executive Order 151 - Emergency Declaration Regarding Homelessness During Inclement Winter Weather; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order adds significant new responsibilities to the Department of Social Services when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below, including extending shelter hours, allowing individuals who are homeless to remain indoors, instructing homeless service outreach workers to work with other relevant personnel and working with local police in relation to the involuntarily transport of at-risk individuals who refuse to go inside and who appear to be at-risk for cold related injuries to appropriate facilities for assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services anticipates being fully reimbursed by New York State for activities which bring it in compliance with this Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, City Mission has operated its Code Blue program with City funding when temperatures are 15 degrees or below at a cost of \$1,400 per weather event and can expand its program to times when temperatures are 32 degrees or below if provided the same level of funding; and

WHEREAS, the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. has informed the Department of Social Services it can provide warming centers in the daytime for homeless individuals at a cost of \$700 per weather event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the State of New York in order to accept reimbursement for the implementation of programs designed to comply with Executive Oder 151 for Erie County Code Blue events; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with the City Mission to house homeless individuals at night when temperatures are between 15 and 32 degrees at a cost of \$1,400 per weather event; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y. to house homeless individuals during the day when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below at a cost of \$700 per weather event; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to make budget revisions, appropriate additional unanticipated revenues, and transfer funds necessary to cover the costs of the aforementioned contracts with the City Mission and the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of W.N.Y.; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby waived; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Social Services.