

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR BURKE**

**RE: Department Name Change for Office for the Disabled**

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County Office for the Disabled has a long track record of providing people with disabilities access to services and organizations to improve their quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize that a person with a disability is not defined nor confined by that disability; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Labor, the correct terminology is “person with a disability” rather than “disabled person” as it uses people first language which strives to put the person before the disability to describe what the person has, rather than what the person is; and

**WHEREAS**, inappropriate descriptors perpetuate the feeling of these individuals as being pitied, ignored, or feared and counteract Erie County’s mission to be inclusive.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, Erie County recognizes the need to use wording that does not apply negative labels to individuals; and

**RESOLVED**, upon date of approval, the Erie County Office for the Disabled shall be known as the Erie County Office for People with Disabilities for all purposes going forward; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive; David Palmer, Commissioner of the Erie County Office of Personnel; Frank Cammarata III, MPA, Executive Director of the Erie County Office for the Disabled; Todd Aldinger, Chair of the Erie County Charter Review Commission; and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None for the County