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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 29, 2016

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

**Re: Appointment to the Commissioner of Environment & Planning**

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Article 8 § 1001 of the County's Charter, I hereby appoint Thomas R. Hersey, Jr. to be the Commissioner of the Department of Environment & Planning beginning May 2, 2016.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact my Chief of Staff Jennifer Hibit. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

**THOMAS R. HERSEY, JR.**  
17 Fallwood Court  
Tonawanda, New York 14223  
(H) (716) 873-7631 (W) (716) 858-7674  
E-mail: tdhersey@verizon.net

**EXPERIENCE:**

**4/2012 - Present**

**Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Compliance  
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning  
Buffalo, New York**

Manage, administer and direct the development and implementation of County environmental programs and services small businesses, municipal governments, and the general public. Advise and assist the County Executive and department heads with environmental issues impacting county facilities and natural assets.

**Responsibilities:**

- Oversight of a staff of technicians and professionals to deliver environmental programs and services to Erie County departments, communities and citizens
- Coordinating efforts to pursue state and federal grant funding to build county programs and services to address the environmental needs of and create a more sustainable Erie County.
- Work with other department heads, local government officials and citizens groups and organizations to develop and implement strategies to protect our environment and our natural resources and assets.
- Coordinating the implementation of Initiatives for a Smart Economy with other County Departments to reduce county energy use and costs, reduce the carbon footprint of county operations, and protect and enhance our Great Lakes natural resource
- Assist both the Parks Department and the Department of Public Works with the management of county facilities and resources.
- Coordinate the work of both the Erie County Environmental Management Council and the Erie County fisheries Advisory Board

**Accomplishments:**

- Assisted the Department of Public Works in the re-establishment of an Energy Officer and the development of an energy management to reduce county energy consumption through conservation measures and the cost of energy through power purchasing agreements for solar power.
- Rebuilt the Division of Environmental Compliance from a limited staff of 5 professionals in 2012 to a current team of 14 by securing over \$2 million in state and federal grant funding.
- Coordinated the creation of the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance, a three county watershed protection collaboration develop a watershed action plan for the New York portion of the Lake Erie Shoreline and foster the implementation of water quality improvement projects in the local shoreline communities.

**5/90 – 4/2012**

**Coordinator, Pollution Prevention Program  
Erie County Division of Environmental Compliance**

## **Buffalo, New York**

Develop, manage and administer County technical assistance and education programs and services to assist small businesses, municipal governments, and the general public in understanding and implementing environmental initiatives. Secured millions in State and federal grants to support programs which focus on addressing priority environmental needs of the community.

### Responsibilities:

- Participate in and coordinate local, regional and national networking activities
- Coordinate County and regional efforts with other local and state environmental, economic development and university officials
- Prepare grant proposal and design work plans and budgets for new resources to expand and continue existing programs
- Train and supervise technical assistance staff technicians
- Administer Federal and State grant programs

### Accomplishments:

- Assisted over 400 local small businesses in implementing pollution prevention and other cost effective waste management strategies and reducing their operating costs
- Established the Local Government Subcommittee of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable to create a forum for local government environmental and business assistance officials to explore ways to more effectively deliver environmental services at the community level
- An original co-author of the Erie County Water Quality Strategy and co-founder of the Erie County

10/85 - 5/90

## **Assistant Environmental Quality Engineer Erie County Division of Environmental Compliance Buffalo, New York**

Involved in the analysis and solution of environmental issues affecting Erie County

### Responsibilities:

- Assist industry with environmental compliance issues, permitting procedures and waste minimization strategies
- Develop a working understanding of Federal and State environmental laws, regulations, and policies
- Establish a working relationship with New York State Department of Environmental conservation and New York State Department of Health officials and local municipal officials
- Draft County position statements and comments on proposed new environmental regulations and other pertinent issues
- Manage the County sanitary sewer approval program

**6/84 - 8/85 Environmental Control Officer  
Northeast Solite Corporation  
Saugerties, New York**

Responsible for monitoring the environmental effects of lightweight aggregate productions to assure compliance with State and Federal requirements

Responsibilities:

- Managing closed loop lagoon system for wet scrubber effluent
- Supervise chemical testing of fuels, sulfur effluent and lagoon sediment
- Complete manifest and coordinate the disposal of PCB sludges
- Assist with the completion of RCRA Treatment, Storage and Disposal permit application to burn non-traditional fuels
- Supervise plant maintenance, upgrading and capital expense projects

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and COMMITTEES:**

May, 2012 – Dec. 2013	WNY Regional Sustainability Plan
Jan. 2013 – Feb. 2015 Team	One Region Forward Climate Action Plan Working
Jan. 1992 - Present	Erie County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
1985 – Present	Buffalo River Remedial Action Committee
March 2015 to Present	Erie County Fisheries Advisory Board
December, 1994 - Ad-hoc August, 1995	Niagara River Toxics Management Public Participation Committee
October, 1995 - December, 1999	Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan Public Forum