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COUNTY OF ERIE

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
COUNTY CLERK

June 4, 2018

Peter J. Savage, III, Chairperson
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Chair Savage:

As you are aware, public buildings present a security challenge in today's changing world. At County Hall and the numerous Auto Bureau offices open to serve the public, employees have direct contact with over 750,000 customers each year and must be prepared for any isolated event or threat.

Eighty-five persons are employed full or part-time in the Erie County Clerk's Office in several departments located at 92 Franklin Street. Security at County Hall is provided by State Court Officers; and despite the fact that the primary responsibility of the Court Officers is protection of the Court personnel, excluding county personnel, the County Clerk's Office relies upon the Court Officers to answer distress calls and prevent weapons from being carried into the building.

Ninety-seven employees work at the ten local Erie County Auto Bureau Units and one mobile Pistol Permit Office. These ninety-seven employees process an average of 50,000 transactions monthly and an average of 40,000 – 50,000 Erie County residents enter Erie County Offices to do business. In all but one office, no security officer is available in the event of an emergency.

Only the Auto Bureau at 170 Pearl Street is provided officers directly by the County based on the justification that the office is located in a "government building." Security is provided in only one other office, by a private contractor and on Saturdays only. At the remaining nine locations, all occupied by lease or agreement with the County, employees and customers alike must rely on officers provided by third parties or wait for a response from a 911 call.

Enclosed with this correspondence is a list of the County offices and information concerning the extent and availability of any security or safety officer(s).

I am requesting assignment of this issue to the appropriate committee and ask for an opportunity to correct this inequity. I am available at the convenience of this honorable body to more specifically discuss details and provide additional information.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL P. KEARNS, Erie County Clerk

Enclosure

| Erie County Clerk Locations: | Security provided by: |
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| Downtown Buffalo 170 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 | Erie County Rath Building Security; Erie County Sheriff's Department |
| Williamsville/Clarence 4545 Transit Road. Williamsville, NY 14221 | No officers on site in the Auto Bureau; Eastern Hills Mall security in the mall; Erie County Sheriff's Substation in the mall |
| Cheektowaga 2122 George Urban Blvd., Depew, NY 14043 | Private security on Saturdays Only; no officer on site in the Auto Bureau weekdays. |
| Town of Tonawanda – Sheridan Plaza 2309 Eggert Road, Amherst, NY 14221 | No security on site in the Auto Bureau; must rely on local police response. |
| Orchard Park – ECC South 4041 Southwestern Blvd./Bldg 7, Orchard Park NY 14127 | No officers on site in the Auto Bureau office; must rely on campus police response. |
| Town of Evans – Evans Town Hall 8787 Erie Road (Route 5), Angola NY 14006 | No security on site in the office. must rely on local police response. |
| Erie County Mobile Auto Bureau Unit Elma Town Hall 1600 Bowen Road, Elma NY 14059 | No security on site in the office; Sheriff's Substation in the Town Hall. |
| Erie County Mobile Auto Bureau Unit Grand Island Town Hall 2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island NY 14072 | No security on site in the office. must rely on local police response. |
| Erie County Mobile Auto Bureau Unit West Seneca Ice Rink 1250 Union Road, West Seneca NY 14224 | No security on site in the office. must rely on local police response. |
| Erie County Mobile Auto Bureau Unit Concord Town Hall 86 Franklin Street, Springville NY 14141 | No security on site in the office. must rely on local police response. |
| Erie County Mobile Pistol Permit Unit Elma Town Hall 1600 Bowen Road, Elma NY 14059 | No security on site in the office; Sheriff's Substation in the Town Hall. |