

# SUSPENSION

## A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS BURKE AND SAVAGE

### Re: Naming the Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park the Sheriff Thomas F. Higgins Park

**WHEREAS**, Thomas F. Higgins, a lifelong resident of the County of Erie and the retired Sheriff of Erie County, is among the most distinguished law enforcement officers of his generation, having served with distinction in leadership positions in both the Erie County Sheriff's Department and the Buffalo Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, at the Erie County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Higgins instituted programs to reduce youth recidivism, a program to provide inmates of the Erie County Holding Center with General Equivalency Diploma training, and undertook capital improvements to relieve jail overcrowding; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Lieutenant in the Buffalo Police Department, Sheriff Higgins was the Director of the Buffalo Police Academy, having served in the narcotics squad, in the safe and burglary unit, and in other capacities; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff Higgins is a United States Marine, having served as a Forward Observer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, 11<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in the Korean War; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff Higgins has been an instructor at Buffalo State College, Erie Community College, Central Police Services Academy, and in professional development programs for the law enforcement and legal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Sheriff Higgins has a laudable record of civic engagement, including having been president of the board of directors of the Buffalo Naval and Military Park, past president of the Buffalo State College Alumni Association, past president of the Judges and Police Conference of Erie County, past chairman of the Erie County Central Police Services board of trustees, past chairman of the Drug Enforcement and Prevention Committee of the National Sheriff's Association, past president of the New York State Sheriff's Association, and having been a member of the City of Buffalo Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations, the City of Buffalo Charter Revision Commission, and the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council; and

**WHEREAS**, working with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, the Great Lakes National Program Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other partners, the County of Erie recently reconfigured this park to eliminate invasive species and provide high quality habitat for native flora and fauna, as part of the \$100 million overall remediation of the Buffalo River,

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the natural habitat park located at the confluence at the Bailey Avenue peninsula formed by the confluence of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek, in the city of Buffalo, which had been named the Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park, shall henceforth be known as the Sheriff Thomas F. Higgins Park; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Department of Parks Recreation and Forestry may install signage to identify the Sheriff Thomas F. Higgins Park as a County-owned property, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office; the County Attorney; and the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution.