

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

**Re: Support for Creating an Erie County Black and Latino Advocacy Taskforce**

**WHEREAS**, historically, Blacks and Latinos in the United States have faced a similar yet distinct history of discrimination, segregation, disenfranchisement, racial injustice, and inequity of opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a poll in January 2018 by Siena College, two-thirds of the persons polled believe minorities experience some form of racial or ethnic discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Pew Research Center, only 19% of members of the United States Congress are members of a racial or ethnic minority, while 38% of the nation's population are minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, out of a total of 16 Erie County government elective officials, only 2 are minorities (18%); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Buffalo, the seat of Erie County government and the heart of our community has the third-largest percentage of poverty of any major city nationally, and is the sixth-most racially segregated city in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the US Bureau of the Census, Black and Latino residents within Erie County disproportionately face higher rates of poverty than White residents, with 9.2% of White residents considered below the federal poverty level, as contrasted with 34.9% for Blacks, and 37.1% of Latinos; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Latino residents within Erie County face statistically higher rates of unemployment than White residents, and on average earn lower average wages than White residents; and

**WHEREAS**, job accessibility has become increasingly difficult for Erie County's Black and Latino residents due to their residential and economic segregation from new job opportunities and a lack of transportation accessibility to new job opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, fair housing issues including rising rental and property values, gentrification, and cases of discrimination disproportionately impact Black and Latino residents; and

**WHEREAS**, criminal justice issues such as disparities in arrests and incarceration rates, length in prison sentencing, and higher rates of recidivism disproportionate impact Black and Latino residents; and

**WHEREAS**, environmental health issues such as asthma and exposure to pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, and lead exposure disproportionately impacting Erie County's Black and Latino communities; and

**WHEREAS**, an objective of this Honorable Body is to provide fair representation and agency for all of Erie County's residents, including Black and Latino residents and to ensure they have a voice to address their issues and needs, ensure equity of opportunities, and just treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, information and potential action on issues and needs impacting Erie County's Black and Latino communities can best be obtained and addressed through the establishment of an advocacy taskforce.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature expresses its support for the creation of an Erie County Black and Latino Advocacy Taskforce which would discuss, study and make recommendations and issue reports to this Honorable Body and to other County elected officials and leaders on how to best serve our County's Black and Latino populations; and be it further.

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, District Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, County Comptroller, Commissioners of Health, Social Services, and Mental Health, Executive Director of Workforce Development, and to the Mayor of Buffalo and Buffalo Common Council.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution.