

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS LORIGO, DIXON, AND RATH**

**Re: Expressing Disappointment with the State's Failure to provide any Funding for the Recent Criminal Justice Reform Efforts**

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County District Attorney has recently come before the Erie County Legislature to request this honorable body provide over a dozen additional support staff to help fulfill the mandates proposed by recent criminal justice reform changes; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the changes include bail reform and changes to the procedures for handling evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, criminal justice reforms have helped limit the impact of needless pre-trial detention and increased the speed with which defendants are able to mount an appropriate defense. These benefits should be celebrated. It is a finding of this body, however, that New York State has not approved any funding to help cover the costs of any of these sweeping changes; and

**WHEREAS**, NYSAC has estimated the cost of the criminal justice reform will likely exceed \$100 million statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, the Erie County District Attorney has indicated the changes will cost the county over \$1.2 million for his office alone. He is currently asking for an expansion of his budget for the remainder of 2019, and has plans to include those positions in the annual budget going forward; and

**WHEREAS**, unfunded mandates, like this recent attempt at criminal justice reform, significantly hamper operations of local governments across the state, most of whom are on tight budgets. The state cannot pass sweeping legislation and expect local governments to cover the costs, it is simply is not sustainable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, this honorable body hereby urges New York State to provide emergency funding to cover the costs imposed on local governments as a result of the recent criminal justice reform; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Legislature, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for Resolution