



**County of Erie**

Mark C. Poloncarz  
 County Executive  
**Department of Probation**

**Brian McLaughlin**  
 Director

**Ysaias Feliz**  
 Deputy Director

March 21, 2013

Rev. Eugene Pierce,  
 Chairman

Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board  
 92 Franklin Street  
 Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Erie County Conditional Release Program

Dear Reverend Pierce,

It has come to my attention the members of the Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board are interested in reviving the Erie County Conditional Release Program (the "Program"). I am writing in order to provide some background and additional information regarding the resources that would be necessary to reinstitute the Program.

As you may be aware, the previous iteration of the Program was staffed by one Probation Officer. That officer was responsible for writing recommendations and reports about those inmates being considered for conditional release, and then supervising those inmates who were actually chosen for release by the Conditional Release Commission. The supervision caseload carried by the Probation Officer numbered between 20 and 25 individuals at any one time.

As currently constituted, the Probation Department would not be able to take on this responsibility without the creation of an officer position specifically dedicated to it. Were the position to be created and funded, the yearly cost of assigning an officer would be as follows:

Position	Salary	Fringe Benefits	Total Cost
Probation Officer JG 11 Step 5	\$54,945	\$36,813	\$91,758

In addition to the expenses related to personnel costs, a onetime expense of approximately \$3,000 would be required to supply the new officer with necessary equipment (gun, bulletproof vest, radio, etc.).

While the addition of a new officer would result in increased ongoing expenses on an annual basis (computer, phone, support services, training, etc.), and the new Program would also incur outlays for actual operations (mileage, additional drug tests, potential additional demands for electronic monitoring, etc.), the department would be able to absorb these expenses.

The members of the Probation Department strongly believe in the benefits of community corrections, and the Program would be a nice addition to our mission. However, unless additional resources as described above are provided to the Probation Department it is unlikely the Program could be reinstated at this time due to current budgetary constraints.

I hope that this letter has provided worthwhile information that will be of assistance to you. Please don't hesitate to call (858 7031) or email ([brian.mclaughlin@erie.gov](mailto:brian.mclaughlin@erie.gov)) if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

  
Brian McLaughlin  
Director  
Erie County Probation Department

cc: Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz  
Robert Keating, Dir. of Budget and Management  
Erie County Legislature  
Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board