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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 9, 2013

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Authorization to contract with Health Research Incorporated

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Health has recently been approached by the NYS Department of Health to collaborate on NYS's Great Lakes Biomonitoring/Health Fishing Communities Project. This project will be conducting surveys and collecting blood samples to study the safety of consuming fish from Lake Erie.

Project staff will utilize two rooms located at the Jesse Nash Health Center located at 608 William St. two days a week, until they have surveyed 150 Erie County residents. The project is being managed by Health Research Incorporated, who has offered to pay Erie County \$350 per week for the use of our space. The Department of Health is seeking permission to enter into a contract with Health Research Incorporated, in order to facilitate a contract that would allow Erie County to collect this revenue.

Should you have any questions, please contact Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein at 716-858-6976.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bs
Enclosure

cc: Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein, MD

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Authorization to contract with Health Research Incorporated
Date: April 2, 2013

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to enter into a contract with Health Research Incorporated for purposes of providing research space at the Jesse E. Nash Health center located at 608 William St.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Erie County will receive \$350 per week, until 150 Erie County residents have been surveyed.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Department of Health is eager to collaborate with NYS on this important research, and the chance to gain additional revenue is always welcome.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fish caught in Lake Erie have long posed a health risk to consumers. While this risk has diminished over the years, the NYS Department of Health's Environmental Health Division continues to monitor the levels of heavy metals and other toxins found in the blood of Great Lakes fish eaters.

Adequate space is already available at the Jesse E. Nash Health Center, and operations will not be interrupted by the presence of Health Research Incorporated staff.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Health will lose out on a small amount of revenue and a chance to facilitate important research for our area.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management and the County Attorney to implement this request.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: Authorization to contract with Health Research Incorporated

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health's Division of Health has two room available at the Jesse E. Nash Center located at 608 William St; and

WHEREAS, Erie County strives to collaborate with the NYS Department of Health whenever reasonable; and

WHEREAS, protecting the health of Erie Counties Fish-Eating population is an important task; and

WHEREAS, Health Research Incorporated has been contracted by NYS to study the safety of consuming Great Lakes fish; and

WHEREAS, Health Research Incorporated has offered to pay Erie County \$350 to utilize two rooms at 608 William St. one day a week; and

WHEREAS, Health Research Incorporated will utilize said space until 150 Erie County residents have been surveyed and tested.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract and receive reimbursement from Health Research Incorporated for the provision of office space; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term of this contract shall commence on April 1, 2013 and end on December 31, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner of Health.