

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

RE: Conveying the Erie County Legislature's Support for Keeping the Buffalo Bills in Erie County

WHEREAS, Erie County is proud to be the home of New York State's only NFL Team that plays in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Bills have had a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Erie County for decades; and

WHEREAS, proof of this relationship lies in the successful Buffalo Bills lease negotiations undertaken in 1998 by the administration of then-Erie County Executive Dennis T. Gorski and the current County Executive, Mark Poloncarz; and

WHEREAS, both County Executives successfully utilized current Deputy County Executive Richard M. Tobe as the county's leading voice in the negotiations among the Buffalo Bills, New York State and Erie County; and

WHEREAS, in the face of a very challenging economic climate nationally, statewide and here in Erie County, the recently approved Buffalo Bills lease is noteworthy for its exceptionally high return on investment of public dollars; and

WHEREAS, a review of other NFL Stadium projects validates the taxpayer sensitivity that was demonstrated by Erie County's successful negotiations to retain an NFL team for a combined investment of \$130 million -- \$53 million from New York State, \$40 million from Erie County and \$35 million from the Bills franchise; and

WHEREAS, in fact, the \$130 million deal will result in a \$140 million boost to New York State income tax collections over the next 10 years, as well as substantial sales tax revenues for both the state and Erie County, and much-needed bed tax dollars to benefit the marketing efforts of Visit Buffalo Niagara, the destination marketing organization for Erie County; and

WHEREAS, opening at a cost of \$20 million in 1973, Erie County's NFL stadium in Orchard Park has yielded economic and quality of place benefits for 40 years; and

WHEREAS, NFL teams continue to be in high demand by communities across the nation, whereby Erie County's \$130 million deal is juxtaposed favorably against the \$400 million deal proposed by the Miami Dolphins and the \$250 million deal sought by the Carolina Panthers; and

WHEREAS, Erie County is privileged to host Bills fans from the Greater Rochester Area, Southern Ontario and the surrounding counties of Western New York, most notably, Niagara County; and

WHEREAS, every effort must be made in the highly competitive national climate in which NFL teams are courted for all political jurisdictions in a region to work together to retain an NFL franchise; and

WHEREAS, Niagara County's interest in the Buffalo Bills is better directed toward supporting the retention of the Bills in Erie County, the government entity with the unparalleled experience and long-standing record for negotiating NFL stadium leases that are in the best interests of the taxpayers, Buffalo Bills fans and the entire region; and

WHEREAS, if future negotiations require the construction of a brand new stadium for the Buffalo Bills, the only reasonable alternative location to Orchard Park would be in Downtown Buffalo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature confirm its support for the recently approved Buffalo Bills lease and its interest in keeping the Buffalo Bills playing in Erie County for many years to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Governor Andrew Cuomo, County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Richard Tobe, the WNY Delegation to the NYS Legislature, the Chair of the Niagara County Legislature, the Mayor of the City of Buffalo, the President of the Buffalo Common Council, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.