

February 26, 2004

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 3

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. CHAIRMAN HOLT PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, that the following items are hereby received and filed.

a. Item Page -2003 (Intro. 14-12)  
**MINORITY CAUCUS:** Reaffirming EC's Commitment to Apprenticeship Programs.  
(5-0)

b. Item Page -2004 (Comm. 5D-9)  
**DPW:** Information Related to the Federal Reauthorization of Transportation Funding.  
(5-0)

c. Item Page -2004 (Comm. 5M-8)  
**NY POWER AUTHORITY:** Notice of Additional Information Posted on Niagara  
Relicensing Website.  
(5-0)

**AS AMENDED**

2. Item Page -2003 (Intro. 9-6)  
**HOLT, SCHROEDER, KUWIK, SMITH, SWANICK & MARSHALL**  
WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has designated Buffalo  
and Lackawanna as a "Renewal Community," and

WHEREAS, the Renewal Community designation has been given to only forty (40)  
municipalities across the U.S., and

WHEREAS, the Renewal Community designation provides for a number of significant  
economic development and tax incentives to spur private business development and investment in  
urban cities, create affordable housing, and the creation and maintenance of jobs in poor census tracts,  
and

WHEREAS, the Renewal Communities will share an estimated \$22 billion in federal tax  
incentives, and

WHEREAS, those federal incentives include a Work Opportunity Tax Credit for hiring new  
youth employees, an Employment Wage Credit for existing employees, Welfare to Work Credits for  
newly-hired welfare recipients, a Commercial Revitalization Deduction for the construction of new  
buildings or the rehabilitation of existing buildings, a Zero-Percent Capital Gains Rate, Additional  
Section 179 Expensing for businesses that purchase new equipment, Environmental Cleanup Cost  
Deductions for cleanup costs of brownfields, and

WHEREAS, Renewal Communities will also enjoy access to the New Markets Tax Credits for investors and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit for rental housing, and

WHEREAS, those federal incentives can be supported, in many Buffalo and Lackawanna neighborhoods, by New York State's Empire Zone benefits, and

WHEREAS, the Renewal Community program and its many tax incentives are not yet well-known and utilized in Erie County, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature expresses its full support for the expansion of the Renewal Community and urges the local federal congressional delegation to support the geographic expansion of the Renewal Community through legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate (S.100), and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature urges local government authorities, offices and private-sector business groups to work together to aggressively and fully market and publicize the program to private businesses, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, Erie County Commissioner of Environment and Planning, ECIDA, Mayor of Buffalo, Buffalo Common Council, Mayor of Lackawanna, Lackawanna City Council, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, local office of Fannie Mae, and the local Federal Delegation.

Fiscal Impact: Positive for Buffalo and Lackawanna businesses and residents  
(5-0)

**AS AMENDED**

3. Item Page -2004 (Intro. 4-12)  
**HOLT, SCHROEDER, WROBLEWSKI, KUWIK, SMITH, RANZENHOFER,  
WEINSTEIN, MARSHALL, MCCARVILLE, CHASE, CUSACK & SWANICK**

WHEREAS, there is interest on the part of Bass Pro Shops, Inc. to locate one of their Outdoor World stores in Buffalo, and

WHEREAS, there exists significant public and private support for the establishment of a Bass Pro store in downtown Buffalo, and

WHEREAS, that support is manifested through pledges of financial support from Bass Pro itself, as well federal transportation funds, state funds, and aid/infrastructural assistance from Erie County and the City of Buffalo, and

WHEREAS, recent discussion has centered on the establishment of a Bass Pro Shop, linked to a new intermodal transportation center, the demolition of the aging General Donovan State Office Building, and reuse plans for the Memorial Auditorium including the potential for the creation of a Great Lakes theme museum and a hotel-restaurant complex, and

WHEREAS, such a multi-purpose project would link to the ongoing redevelopment of the Inner Harbor area and could contribute to the cultural and tourism marketing of our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature expresses support for the Bass Pro-Intermodal Transportation Center-Memorial Auditorium-Donovan State Office Building project, particularly as it fits into the redevelopment of the Inner Harbor redevelopment, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body calls on the New York State Assembly, New York State Senate, the Governor, and Erie County to redirect funds from the Adelpia project for the Bass Pro-Intermodal Transportation Center-Memorial Auditorium-Donovan State Office Building project, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body expresses its appreciation to Congressman Jack Quinn and Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello for their efforts in support of the Bass Pro-Intermodal Transportation Center project, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests the appearance of the Deputy County Executive, Budget Director or Commissioner of Environment and Planning to discuss the project and the County's specific role and proposed financial and infrastructural commitment to the project, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be submitted to Governor George Pataki, the Western New York Delegation of the New York State Legislature, Congressman Jack Quinn, Erie County Executive Joel Giambra, Buffalo Mayor Anthony Masiello, Members of the Buffalo Common Council, the local office of Empire State Development, and Bass Pro President John L. Morris (2500 E Kearney St, Springfield, MO 65803).

Fiscal Impact: Not known at this time.  
(5-0)

**MARK J. F. SCHROEDER**  
**CHAIRMAN**