



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 23, 2019

James Sampson, Chairman  
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority  
295 Main Street, Room 946  
Buffalo, New York 14203

**Re: 2020-2023 Revised Erie County Four Year Financial Plan**

Dear Chairman Sampson:

Pursuant to Public Authorities Law §3957, I hereby submit to the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority ("ECFSA") the revised Four Year Financial Plan for Erie County for fiscal years 2020-2023 (the "Plan").

The Plan reflects the amendments made to the 2020 Budget by the Erie County Legislature ("Legislature") on December 5, 2019. In addition, as a result of the amendments and updated information, the Division of Budget and Management have made adjustments to the 2021-2023 years of the Plan. It is important to note that the 2020 Budget remains balanced. The modest reduction in spending made by the Legislature totaling \$656,488 is equivalent to only 0.0004% of the \$1.555 billion overall General Fund budget.

On the final page of the Plan matrix, as a result of the adjustments to the 2020 Budget, and other information the projected 2021-2023 gaps in the Plan have increased by \$ 3,005,751. Generally, the major impact of these 2020 Budget amendments is self-contained within 2020.

We do not expect any noteworthy issues to emerge in managing the 2020 Budget as a result of the Legislature's budget amendments.

**Potential Gap Closers**

There are a number of potential “gap closers” available to the County to close the projected gaps in 2021, 2022 and 2023. These gap closers can be utilized in a variety of ways. They include reductions in spending and fund holdbacks as well as revenue adjustments. They are difficult to quantify in part due to various scenarios in which they could be employed and the timing in which they were employed, as well as the need to seek Legislature approval for some of them. They include:

- Better than expected property tax assessment growth
- Better than expected sales tax revenue relating in part to new taxability of certain internet-based sales.
- Reduction of discretionary spending
- Additional revenue from expanded foreclosure actions
- More aggressive vacancy control measures
- Re-instatement of Gaming Facilities Aid
- Reduction in Intergovernmental Transfer costs
- Usage of Unassigned Fund Balance

If you have any questions regarding the Plan, please do not hesitate to contact Robert W. Keating, Director of Budget and Management.

Sincerely yours,



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/rk  
Enclosure

cc: Erie County Legislature  
Robert W. Keating, Director of Budget and Management