



STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW
ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER

November 30, 2020

Chair April N.M. Baskin
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Update Regarding COVID-19 Overtime Expenses for County MC Employees Across New York State

Dear Chairwoman Baskin:

On September 22, 2020, I sent to you correspondence regarding overtime paid to MC employees at counties across New York State. As you may recall, we contacted 61 counties (excluding Erie) to determine how much overtime was paid to health commissioners and other MC employees in county government. This information was provided to you in anticipation of your committee meeting to discuss MC overtime, which had been postponed since July. As the meeting has not yet occurred, this update letter may be useful for your discussion at that meeting to be held at a later date.

At that time, Erie County had paid a total of \$942,664 (\$976,959 including holiday worked overtime) in overtime to its MC employees. The rest of the counties in New York State reporting back to us, which totaled 52 counties, had paid a total of \$45,515 in overtime to MC employees. Also at that time, our Health Commissioner had received \$119,485 in overtime and holiday worked overtime. Only one other county, Greene County, reported compensating a health commissioner with overtime, in an amount totaling \$3,100.

As of November 27, 2020, Erie County has paid its MC employees a total of \$1,055,844 in combined overtime and holiday worked overtime. The Health Commissioner's total overtime is now \$158,484.

We did not reach out to counties to ask if they had reconsidered and started paying overtime to MC employees, or to update amounts. However, we did recently receive a response from one of the governments originally contacted, but not included in the original report.

New York City, which includes the five boroughs, responded to our FOIL request. They stated that the City of New York's managerial employees were ineligible for overtime payments. As such, despite New York City being one of the global epicenters in the fight against COVID-19, they are not paying MC employees or political appointees overtime.

I hope that this information is helpful to your discussion regarding overtime payments for MC employees. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the information presented herein, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Kroll".

Scott Kroll
Deputy Comptroller for Audit

cc: Erie County Legislature