



ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER
HON. STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW

August 24, 2020

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Honorable Members,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our local economy, having a negative impact on certain industries more than others, I wanted to provide you an update on Hotel Occupancy Tax collections, also known as Bed Tax. While a portion of the revenue generated from the Hotel Occupancy Tax supports Visit Buffalo Niagara, the remaining funds go into the general fund.

In the first and second quarter, my office collected \$2,184,729.82. To compare, in the first and second quarter of 2019, we collected \$4,751,639.29. That is a drop of 54%. Here is the breakdown:

2020	\$2,184,729.82
Quarter 1	\$1,620,634.27
Quarter 2	\$564,095.55
2019	\$4,751,639.29
Quarter 1	\$1,946,461.32
Quarter 2	\$2,805,177.97

The 2020 budget you adopted in December 2019 projected Hotel Occupancy Tax at \$11,600,000. This month, my office will send notifications to all Erie County hotels with returns due in September for the third quarter. The Office of Erie County Comptroller will continue to monitor this and other revenue sources and report data to your honorable body.

Sincerely,

Gregory G. Gach
Deputy Comptroller
Erie County Comptroller's Office