



STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW

MICHAEL P. KEARNS

ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER

ERIE COUNTY CLERK

May 27, 2020

Hon. Timothy Howard
Erie County Sheriff
10 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Sheriff Howard,

It has come to our attention that under the cloak of COVID-19, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo quietly slipped a provision into the budget that makes it a felony for members of law enforcement to share information about illegal immigrants with a fellow member of a police agency. In a bi-partisan manner, we will work with your department and do whatever it takes to reverse this despicable attack on police.

Clearly, Gov. Cuomo wants to turn police into lawbreakers for doing their job and keeping communities safe, wanting to place handcuffs on cops instead of illegal immigrants. Keep in mind, those individuals here illegally are in fact breaking the law by being here. Leading up to the 9/11 attacks, law enforcement agencies did not share information that helped lead to the worst terrorist attack in our nation's history. This law espouses siloed information and could be disastrous in the future.

We are reaching out not only to show our support for your officers, but also as an opportunity to meet in the near future to discuss strategies on stopping this attack on your officers. The new state law passed in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis in April sets a dangerous precedent and puts the lives of many of our first responders at risk.

It is unconscionable that Gov. Cuomo has made it a felony for law enforcement to share information about illegal immigrants by inserting the change under the cloak of the COVID-19 crisis hoping no one would notice. It is clear cut obstruction for our local police and sheriffs, putting you at risk.

We promise to use our respective offices to raise this issue as high as we can to repeal this.

Many thanks to you and all your officers for putting your lives on the line every single day to protect our families and community. God Bless you, and the brave men and women who keep our families safe and secure.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Stefan I. Mychajliw Jr., written in a cursive style.

STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW Jr.
ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER

A black ink signature of Michael P. Kearns, written in a cursive style.

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
ERIE COUNTY CLERK