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September 23, 2020 – For immediate release
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ERIE COUNTY TOPS MOST NEW YORK COUNTIES IN COVID OVERTIME

Local overtime costs are almost 21 times more than all NYS counties surveyed combined

(ERIE COUNTY, NY) –The Office of Erie County Comptroller reached out to all 62 counties in New York State to ask how much money in overtime has been paid to any managerial confidential (MC) employee in any position since the federal government provided CARES Act funding to local municipalities to address COVID issues. 52 of those counties contacted responded. The Comptroller’s office found that while Erie County has paid a total of \$942,664 in overtime to MC employees, the other counties across New York State paid a combined total \$45,515 to managerial confidential workers for overtime worked on COVID issues.

“To put that in context, there are five managerial confidential employees in Erie County that collected more in overtime than all other county political employees across New York State combined,” said Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw.

Tompkins, Niagara, Saratoga, and Clinton Counties have not yet responded to inquiries from the Office of Erie County Comptroller, nor has New York City, which has five counties within its borders but with no functioning county governments. As such, those counties are subject to the jurisdiction of New York City.

In each case, county representatives were asked if they were paying Managerial Confidential employees overtime to address COVID-related issues, if the Health Commissioner was being compensated additionally for working on COVID concerns, and if so, how much.

Of the 52 responding counties, only Greene County has paid overtime to their health commissioner; a total of \$3,100. To date, Erie County paid \$115,133 in overtime to its Health Commissioner. Erie County paid nearly three times the amount in overtime to its Health Commissioner as 52 other counties paid in total to all MC employees for COVID related issues.

“It’s important to keep lawmakers informed about how Erie County is spending these federal funds. We are not casting aspersions on any Erie County employee. They have done phenomenal work during this pandemic. My job is to share fiscal data with our partners in government. Hopefully this data will help guide them in their management and decision making going forward,” concluded Comptroller Mychajliw.

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