A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR RATH

Re: Encouraging Utilization of Firefighter Training Grant

WHEREAS, Erie County has accepted and utilizes Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant #EMW2008-00784 for providing firefighter 1 and other firefighting training classes at Erie Community College, among other purposes; and

WHEREAS, SAFER grant 2010-360 is a state-wide grant which is utilized by firefighters in other counties to provide eighty credit hours of training and education at their local community college; and

WHEREAS, the state-wide SAFER grant requires those utilizing these expanded educational benefits to commit to a number of years of service; and

WHEREAS, Erie County firefighters cannot utilize the state-wide grant, because the local grant also provides training and education; and

WHEREAS, if the local grant did not provide training, Erie County firefighters could participate in the state-wide grant; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the state-wide grant would encourage local firefighters to get their education at Erie Community College, instead of going to community colleges in other counties, as well as encourage community members to become volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS, this could help reduce chargebacks paid by local taxpayers when local students attend community colleges in other counties; and

WHEREAS, in order to participate in the state-wide grant, two federal grant administrators must sign-off that there will be no duplication of efforts providing training to firefighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests that all parties move forward to complete the process which would allow firefighters in Erie County to participate in the state-wide grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to County Executive Mark Poloncarz, the Erie County Department of Emergency Services and the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Fiscal Impact: Positive for Erie County taxpayers