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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PS

April 16, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Department of Emergency Services – Homeland Security funding for
Citizen Preparedness**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find an accompanying memorandum and a proposed resolution from the Department of Emergency Services requesting that your Honorable Body authorize the utilization of homeland security funds to continue contracting with the American Red Cross to prepare Erie County residents for natural or man-made disasters and emergencies. Funding for the contact is currently available in the previously approved 2010 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Dan Neaverth Jr. at the Department of Emergency Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/bb
Enclosure

cc: Dan Neaverth Jr., Department of Emergency Services

8E-20

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: "Department of Emergency Services"
Re: Department of Emergency Services – Homeland Security funding for
Citizen Preparedness
Date: April 9, 2012

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature approve the attached proposed resolution to utilize homeland security funds to contract with the American Red Cross to prepare residents of Erie County in natural or man-made disaster and emergency situations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the County. An extension to an existing contract will be signed with the American Red Cross in the amount of \$90,000 and will be funded through homeland security funds that are available in the 2010 Urban Area Security Initiative grant (HS167UASIF1013).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Emergency Services would like to continue to prepare the residents of Erie County for natural or man-made disaster situations utilizing the Red Cross. This initiative began in 2008 and has shown to be successful.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As a result of existing threats to homeland security, the federal government, through various State agencies, has allocated funds to be utilized to improve the ability of local governments to deal effectively with emergency and disaster situations. In order to properly prepare the residents of Erie County, Emergency Services would like to continue its efforts that were started back in 2008 by continuing to fund the American Red Cross.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Without this Legislation the American Red Cross contract will not be extended and the original purpose of what these funds were intended, to better prepare the residents of Erie County during emergency and disaster related incidents, will not be completed.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will sign an extension to the original contract for \$90,000 and the Department of Emergency Services will work with the American Red Cross to prepare the residents of Erie County for natural or man-made disaster/emergency situations.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
“DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES”

RE: Department of Emergency Services –
Homeland Security funding for
Citizen Preparedness

WHEREAS, the County of Erie wants to continue raising the level of awareness among individuals, families and businesses in our community on the importance of emergency preparedness through the Community Disaster Education Initiative (“Initiative”); and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the Initiative will continue to consist of:
(1) a Community Component to prepare individuals to establish a family disaster plan,
(2) a Business Component to establish a workplace emergency plan, and
(3) a Education Component to train students in emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Initiative will be best achieved through existing organizations who have experience in preparing for emergencies and educating their constituents regarding emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo branch of the American Red Cross (“Red Cross”) has considerable experience in emergency preparedness and in responding to various emergencies and disaster; and

WHEREAS, in addition the county will utilize \$90,000 of UASI 09 funding to support this initiative, which has been approved in a prior resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive to enter into a contract with the American Red Cross for the purpose of assisting the County in the Initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Erie shall utilize \$90,000 from currently available UASI 2010 funds, account 516020 grant HS167UASIF1013, for said contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these funds will be utilized to raise the awareness level of the importance of emergency preparedness in the County; and be it

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Emergency Services c/o Melissa Calhoun, the Department of Central Police Services, the County Comptroller, and the County Attorney.