



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**HON. JOSEPH C. LORIGO**  
LEGISLATOR

September 20, 2012  
Erie County Comptroller David Shenk  
95 Franklin Street 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Comptroller Shenk:

After reviewing communications from you regarding the 2012 Capital Borrowing, I write to you seeking clarification.

In December, the legislature authorized \$3,000,000 in bonds to finance the Buffalo Zoo's polar bear habitat renovation to bring it to specifications required for its accreditation. In March, the legislature authorized \$21,200,291 in bonds for specified capital projects. Thus, the total amount of bonds authorized is \$24,200,291.

On August 7, you submitted to the legislature a statement that you would close on the 2012 capital borrowing on August 14, 2012 in the amount of \$24,200,000. This is \$291 less than the amount the legislature requested as necessary to complete the list of projects, which is a nominal difference. In your report submitted to the legislature on September 7, 2012, you state that the total value of the bond was \$23,987,689.04. This is \$212,601.96 less than the amount the legislature requested as necessary to complete the list of projects.

In the past, you implied that costing taxpayers an extra \$800,000 was not significant. We disagree on your assertion. I also view \$212,601.96 as a significant amount. However, this is not an area where we can simply disagree. The projects have a certain price tag, and the county did not borrow enough to cover that price tag. My questions are why was not the full amount to cover the cost of the projects borrowed, why was the legislature not consulted in making the decision and how will the county finance the \$212,601?

Thank you in advance for your anticipated prompt response.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Lorigo  
Erie County Legislator - District 10