

May 15, 2014

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 6

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 4E-7 (2014)
MILLS: “Requesting Review of Legislature Expenditures from Comptroller Mychajliw”
(4-0) Legislator Loughran not present for vote.
 - b. COMM. 4E-12 (2014)
GRANT: “Letter to Chairman of Legislature Concerning Review of Legislature Expenditures”
(4-0) Legislator Loughran not present for vote.
 - c. COMM. 5D-7 (2014)
COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE: “Review of the Erie County Legislature's Expenditures”
(4-0) Legislator Loughran not present for vote.
 - d. COMM. 8D-1 (2014)
COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE: “Review of the Erie County Legislature's Expenditures”
(4-0) Legislator Loughran not present for vote.
 - e. COMM. 10E-24 (2014)
BURKE: “Copy of 'Fatally Flawed: Why the Rockefeller Institute's Scaffold Law Report Doesn't Add Up'”
(4-0) Legislator Loughran not present for vote.
 - f. COMM. 10D-4 (2014)
COUNTY ATTORNEY: “Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County”
(5-0)
 - g. COMM. 10M-9 (2014)
EC BOARD OF ETHICS: “Response to 2010 Comptroller Report ‘A Review of the EC Board of Ethics for the Period Jan 2007-Dec 2009’”
(5-0)
2. RESOLVED, the following item is hereby received, filed and referred to the Finance & Management Committee:

- a. COMM. 10D-5 (2014)
DIVISION OF INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES: “DISS Response to Comptroller Review of Wireless Devices”
(5-0)
3. INTRO. 5-4 (2014)
GRANT & BURKE
WHEREAS, Empire State Development Corporation’s “I Love New York” suite at Ralph Wilson Stadium with 16 seats is operated by Buffalo Niagara Enterprise for the purpose of entertaining business leaders interested in moving to our region; and

WHEREAS, the suite is a community asset held by a State entity for the purpose of community enrichment; and

WHEREAS, the suite is intended to be used not only for “encouraging and fostering economic development, tourism and public awareness for the City of Buffalo, Erie County and the State of New York,” but also for “charitable or public functions,” according to lease documents; and

WHEREAS, only 54 seats of a total of 112 seats were used in the suite during the 2013 season, and the suite was completely unused for the last two games of the season; and

WHEREAS, leaving the suite unoccupied during a game is a loss to the community; and

WHEREAS, our region has many dedicated Bills fans living in urban, suburban, and rural areas that are financially unable to attend the games of their favorite team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature encourages Empire State Development Corporation and Buffalo Niagara Enterprise to use the “I Love New York” suite at Ralph Wilson Stadium for charitable purposes on all dates where the suite will remain empty, or where seats go unused; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Legislature encourages the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise to establish partnerships with regional non-profits to facilitate that charitable use, with special attention toward reaching youngsters from low income families, military service members and their families, veterans, Scouting organizations, senior citizens, and at-risk youth, from all areas of our region, who, but for a chance to use these seats, may never have an opportunity to watch a Bills game from such a venue as the “I Love New York” suite; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Community Enrichment Committee of this Honorable Body arrange an opportunity for operating officials of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise to speak to this issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Empire State Development Corporation, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, and to the County Executive.

(4-0) Legislator Loughran not present for vote.

KEVIN R. HARDWICK
CHAIR