

January 22, 2015

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.
CHAIR MILLS PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 25E-7 (2014)
MILLER-WILLIAMS: "Letter of Support from WNY Regional Economic Development Council Regarding Buffalo City Mission Expansion Project"
(5-0) Legislator Burke not present for vote.
 - b. COMM. 26E-24 (2014)
MILLER-WILLIAMS: "Letter of Support to Buffalo Common Council for Dedicating a Room in Honor of the Life of Mr. Moody W. Pugh Jr"
(5-0) Legislator Burke not present for vote.

2. INTRO. 1-7 (2015)
MILLER-WILLIAMS **AS AMENDED**
WHEREAS, recent reports from administrators of Erie Community College (ECC) concerning the onerous and antiquated system of Community College Chargeback Rates that require taxpayers to pay a fee when residents of Erie County attend two-year schools elsewhere in the state warrants review by the Erie County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, ECC Chief Administrator and Financial Officer recently highlighted the need for a review by the Erie County Legislature in a memo sent to the ECC Board of Trustees which discussed the amount of municipal dollars that are being used to pay for the education of residents who attend a NYS Community College other than ECC; and

WHEREAS, the amount totaled over \$5.4 million in 2013 with taxpayers in Tonawanda & Kenmore paying \$846,204 extra in property taxes and taxpayers in Amherst/Williamsville paying \$910,670 extra in property taxes as a result of their residents attending a NYS Community College other than ECC; and

WHEREAS, this chargeback policy was implemented into State law in the 1950s, and is inadvertently causing an undue burden on Erie County's struggling local governments, a review of this policy is warranted by this Honorable Body's Community Enrichment Committee in order to hear from stakeholders and formulate a multi-partisan strategy to address this issue with the WNY State Delegation and encourage reform of this chargeback policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature conveys its support for the reform of the Community College Chargeback Policy that has put a financial strain on Erie County and its municipalities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this matter be fully discussed at a future meeting of the Erie County Legislature Community Enrichment Committee with representatives from ECC and stakeholders from local governments to formulate a plan to address this issue and encourage reform of this policy with Albany policymakers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the leadership at ECC, local State Senate and State Assembly Representatives, and to each municipality in Erie County.
(6-0)

KEVIN R. HARDWICK
CHAIR