

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS LORIGO, RATH, TODARO & MILLS

Opposition State Withholding Aid and Incentives for Municipalities Funding

WHEREAS, New York State's revenue sharing program, also known as Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM), is aid provided to all cities (other than New York City), towns and villages within New York; and

WHEREAS, local municipalities rely on AIM funding as unrestricted state aid to bolster municipal government operations and programming, many of those services are unfunded state mandates; and

WHEREAS, due to the state's revenue shortfall because of COVID-19, the state Division of the Budget recently announced they are temporarily withholding 20 percent of AIM funding to twelve cities in New York; and

WHEREAS, the twelve cities seeing a reduced payment, include Buffalo, Lackawanna, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers, face an AIM payment shortfall totaling \$74,067,239; and

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo was expecting a May and June FY 2021 payment of \$98,361,870, which was reduced to \$78,689,496; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lackawanna was expecting a May and June FY 2021 payment of \$6,248,337, which was reduced to \$4,998,670; and

WHEREAS, in New York State, cities are not allowed to operate in a deficit, therefore immediate, mid-year budgetary adjustments must be made to cover any unanticipated funding shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has put tremendous financial pressure on the New York cities, and every municipality, cuts to cities' AIM funding only makes their financial situation worse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, this Honorable Body is in opposition to the state Division of the Budget temporarily withholding any portion of Aid and Incentives to Municipalities funding allotted to New York cities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, this Honorable Body is in opposition to the state Division of the Budget withholding any portion of state funding currently allocated to New York cities, towns and villages; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York delegation of the NYS Senate and Assembly, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution