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# COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WILLIAM E. GEARY, JR.  
COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
RATH BUILDING – 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

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July 6, 2021

Hon. Stefan I. Mychajliw  
Erie County Comptroller  
95 Franklin St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Comptroller Mychajliw,

I am writing to correct a few inaccuracies that were published by your office regarding roofing work being completed at Erie Community College. First, it is worth noting that since 2015 Erie County has borrowed \$13.3 million, **not** \$26.6 million as you initially stated. As your office should know, SUNY funds 50% (\$13.3 million) of all capital projects on their campuses. ECDPW has one employee who administers all the ECC projects, including developing the RFPs for A/E consultants.

Second, as you know, with many of our large-scale construction projects there is time for design built into the project as well as sufficient time for the proper bidding and construction processes and time for the necessary approvals (not only by the Erie County Legislature but also the SUNY Division of Budget). Since the start of COVID pandemic until April 2021, ECDPW needed to submit all new AE & Construction contracts (regardless of dollar amount) to SUNY Division of Budget for approval, and this was on a 5-month approval cycle. Unfortunately, design build is not an option for local governments governed by general municipal law.

With that being said, the Department of Public Works recognizes the importance of capital funding and the borrowing of public dollars. DPW does not make any requests that are not of the utmost importance.

Please see below the breakdown of the remaining capital funds for work on the ECC roof:

For the unspent \$6.3M roofing 2015-2018 capital money:

- **\$4M budgeted for ECC Skylight Replacement project;** Currently pending legislature approval for skylight structural analysis. Construction is schedule for Spring/Summer 2022.
- **\$1.5M budgeted for Spring Student Center Exterior Upgrades** for summer 2022 construction; Currently awaiting SUNY ECC for final design review.

- **\$0.8M budgeted for Bell Sports Roof** originally intended for summer 2021 construction. We had received bids in Dec. 2020, but they came in higher than SUNY Division of Budget approval, so project was rejected. Re-bidding in Fall 2021.

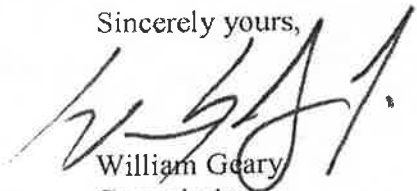
For the unspent \$14.3 M 2019/2020 capital money:

- **\$2.4M budgeted for Spring Student Center Exterior Upgrades** for summer 2022 construction; bid January 2022
- **\$1.7M budgeted for Kittinger Doors & Windows Replacement** for summer 2022 construction; bid October 2021
- **\$2.7M budgeted for Burt Flickinger Pool & Exterior Upgrades** for summer 2022 construction; bid October 2021
- **\$2.0M budgeted for North & South Campus-wide Sidewalk replacement** for summer 2022 construction; bid October 2021
- **\$5.5M budgeted for All 3 campus Mechanical & Power Distribution upgrades**, phased construction; Consultant currently completing Pre-Design Report for County to prioritize and phase construction.

Outside of the money explained above, the Department was offered the opportunity to fund large scale projects that were not previously bonded so it made sense to include the request for the \$2 million request to replace the clay tile roof on the ECC City building.

I am hopeful this clears up any misinformation existing regarding work on the ECC roof but if there are any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,



William Geary  
Commissioner

Erie County Department of Public Works