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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 20, 2021

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Authorization to Accept Funding and Enter into Contracts
To Provide Extended Hours of Youth Engagement Activities
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution requesting legislative authorization to accept funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and to enter into contracts with various anti-violence agencies to provide extended hours of Youth Engagement Activities as part of the Safe Summer NY 2021 program.

As a result of the Executive Order of Governor Andrew Cuomo declaring a State-wide disaster emergency due to gun violence, the Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau is requesting that the Erie County Legislature waive Erie County Administrative Code Section 26.08 to enter into contracts with various anti-violence agencies to provide extended hours of Youth Engagement Activities.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Commissioner Marie Cannon at the Department of Social Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mmk
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner of Social Services Marie Cannon

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Social Services
Re: Authorization to Accept Funding and Enter into Contracts
To Provide Extended Hours of Youth Engagement Activities
Date: July 20, 2021

SUMMARY

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$130,000 in funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), to establish a budget, and to enter into contracts with Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo, SNUG/ECMC, Lt. Col Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Father Belle Center, the Police Athletic League (PAL) and various other anti-violence agencies in the 17 targeted areas to provide extended hours of Youth Engagement Activities as part of the Safe Summer NY 2021 program. The funding allocated to Erie County is based on the rise in gun violence in Buffalo in 2021.

As a result of the Executive Order of Governor Andrew Cuomo declaring a State-wide disaster emergency due to gun violence, the Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau is requesting that the Erie County Legislature waive Erie County Administrative Code Section 26.08 to enter into contracts with various anti-violence agencies to provide extended hours of youth engagement activities. This waiver will allow the Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau to provide the necessary services in an expedient manner.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this action is derived entirely from 100% New York State Aid dollars. No County tax dollars are necessary to support this request.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND

INFORMATION

On July 6, 2021 Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a State-wide disaster emergency due to gun violence in New York State. Since January 2021 gun violence is up 88% in Buffalo which poses a serious threat to the health and quality of life of all residents of Erie County. By accepting these funds Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau will partner with Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo, SNUG/ECMC, Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Father Belle Center, the Police Athletic League (PAL) and various anti-violence agencies in the 17 targeted areas to provide youth engagement activities such as sports; visual and spoken word arts; neighborhood garden and park programs; music, theater, and dance programs; and community, restorative justice and civic engagement projects to youth ages 14-24 at risk of being perpetrators and victims of gun violence in high-gun violence neighborhoods and census tracts.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

We would be unable to provide extended hours of youth engagement activities as part of the Safe Summer NY 2021 program to youth ages 14-24 at risk of being perpetrators and victims of gun violence in high-gun violence neighborhoods and census tracts.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Social Services will work with the Division of Budget and Management to amend the 2021 Adopted Budget, and will then enter into contracts Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo, SNUG/ECMC, Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Father Belle Center, the Police Athletic League, and various other anti-violence agencies to provide extended hours of Youth Engagement Activities as part of the Safe Summer NY 2021 program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Re: Authorization to Accept Funding and Enter into Contracts
To Provide Extended Hours of Youth Engagement Activities

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau is responsible for the delivery of a comprehensive range of services for the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau has been awarded \$130,000 by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) as part of an Executive Order by Governor Andrew Cuomo to provide extended hours of youth engagement activities to youth ages 14-24 at risk of being perpetrators and victims of gun violence in high gun violence neighborhoods and census tracts; and

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued an Executive Order declaring a State-wide disaster emergency due to gun violence, the Department of Social Services in collaboration with the Erie County Youth Bureau is requesting that the Erie County Legislature waive Erie County Administrative Code Section 26.08 to enter into contracts with various anti-violence agencies to provide extended hours of youth engagement activities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services requires legislative approval to accept the State funds and to amend the 2021 Adopted Budget; and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be necessary for Erie County to accept this state aid to serve individuals residing in Erie County; and

WHEREAS Erie County Youth Bureau has a working relationship with Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo as a current contractor in providing services to at risk youth and has expertise in anti-violence curriculum and drop in recreation programs for teens and young adults at three sites; and

WHEREAS SNUG/ECMC has the staffing and expertise in leadership activities for youth currently engaged in gun violence at sites throughout the east side; and

WHEREAS Erie County Youth Bureau has a working relationship with Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY as a current contractor in providing services to at risk youth and has expertise in career exploration, restorative justice and leadership opportunities for youth in the Broadway Filmore neighborhood; and

WHEREAS Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers can provide media arts, urban agriculture, financial education, and intergenerational programs in the Fruit Belt as well as other areas of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS Erie County Youth Bureau has a working relationship with Father Belle Center and they can offer drop in evening recreation and evidence based mental health services; and

WHEREAS Police Athletic League (PAL) can provide Play Streets sports equipment and instruction in the community at several hot spots in the city; and

WHEREAS Erie County Youth Bureau has a working relationship with many other Community based agencies throughout the 17 targeted areas that may have expertise in providing extended hours Youth Engagement activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to accept New York State funds to provide extended hours of youth engagement activities to youth ages 14-24 at risk of being perpetrators and victims of gun violence and authorizes the Division of Budget and Management to establish a grant as follows:

Erie County Youth Bureau
Fund Center 12530
July 6, 2021 – December 31, 23021

Revenue	Increase
Account 408000 - State Aid - Youth Programs	\$130,000
Appropriation	Increase
Account 517876 – Youth Development Programs	\$130,000

and be it further

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contract with Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo to provide anti-violence curriculum and drop in recreation programs for teens and young adults at three sites; and

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contract with SNUG/ECMC to provide leadership activities for youth currently engaged in gun violence at sites throughout the east side; and

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contract with Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY to provide services to at risk youth and has expertise in career exploration, restorative justice and leadership opportunities for youth in the Broadway Filmore neighborhood; and

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contract with Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers to provide media arts, urban agriculture, financial education, and intergenerational programs in the Fruit Belt as well as other areas of Buffalo; and

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contract with Father Belle Center to offer drop in evening recreation and evidence based mental health services; and

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contract with the Police Athletic League (PAL) to provide Play Streets sports equipment and instruction in the community at several hot spots in the city; and

RESOLVED the County Executive can enter into contracts with other Community based agencies in the 17 targeted areas to provide extended hours Youth Engagement Activities; and

RESOLVED that the Erie County Legislature does hereby waive the procedures provided for in Section 28.06 of the Erie County Administrative Code to secure the services of various anti-violence agencies throughout the targeted zip codes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to the award, provided there are no changes to county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be furnished to the Office of the County Executive, the Department of Social Services, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Division of Budget and Management.