

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS LORIGO, TODARO, GREEN, AND MILLS**

**Re: Establishing A Timeline and Transparency Process for Approval of Future Bills Lease and new Stadium Construction**

**WHEREAS**, the current lease agreement between the County of Erie, the Erie County Stadium Corporation and the Buffalo Bills will expire on July 30, 2023 and

**WHEREAS**, the owners of the Buffalo Bills, Terry and Kim Pegula, have clearly stated that they will not agree to a new lease without a deal to construct a new stadium; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Bills have released details of their stadium study that suggest construction of a new stadium will exceed \$1.4 billion and they have an expectation that a significant portion of the cost will be funded by taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buffalo Bills organization has stated that their preferred site for new stadium construction is across the street from the current stadium in the Town of Orchard Park, near or within the footprint of Erie Community College's South Campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that within a few weeks the State of New York will release the results of their study on a new stadium for the Buffalo Bills and she specifically did not rule out the possibility of building a new stadium in downtown Buffalo; and

**WHEREAS**, both parties, the Buffalo Bills and the State of New York, acknowledge that construction of a new stadium within the City of Buffalo will be significantly more expensive because any available site will require a massive investment into new or enhanced infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, whether or not the Stadium remains in the Town of Orchard Park or is relocated to the City of Buffalo, taxpayers may be asked to spend more than \$1 billion on its construction.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body understands an expenditure of this magnitude will have an impact on the taxpayer and believes serious deliberation and public input are required before this body can render a final decision on a new lease or stadium construction agreement; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body hereby officially enacts the following timetable to ensure the process for approving any new stadium lease or construction agreement:

1. The Erie County Legislature shall deliberate, and not act on, the proposal(s) for a period no less than 90 days from the date they are officially clocked into the record.

2. The Erie County Legislature shall call three public hearings on the proposal(s) to be completed 10 days prior to any vote of the Legislature on the proposal(s). The public hearings shall be spread geographically throughout the County, with hearings held at Erie Community College's City, North and South campuses. These public hearings shall be held in the evening, no earlier than 6pm. The schedule for the public hearings shall be set by the Legislature within 30 days of receiving the proposal(s). Public notice for the public hearings shall be no less than 10 days.

And, be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that The Clerk of the Legislature shall post the proposal(s) to the Legislature's website and the Department of Information and Support Services is directed to establish an online comment form on the Erie County Legislature's website for the purpose of allowing the public to express an opinion on the proposal(s). The online comment period shall close on the date of the final public hearing and all comments received shall be formally presented to the Legislature by the Clerk of the Legislature 10 days prior to the Legislature taking any action on the proposal(s); and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Erie County Legislature is hereby directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive, Erie County Comptroller, Director of Budget and Management, WNY State Delegation, and Governor Kathy Hochul.

Fiscal Impact: None