



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

October 29, 2021

HON. FRANK J. TODARO

LEGISLATOR
8TH DISTRICT

Superintendent Thomas Diina
Erie County Sheriff's Office
Division of Jail Management
10 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Request for proposal to install additional security cameras at the Erie County Holding Facility

Dear Superintendent Diina,

Recently, the Legislature's Public Safety Committee discussed allegations wherein inmates at the Erie County Correctional Facility were abused by corrections officers during the recent period of unrest.

It is my understanding that your office has already taken prompt disciplinary measures including the termination of the offending deputy or corrections officer. However, the alleged abuse occurred in a section of the Correctional Facility that is not fully monitored by security cameras.

Currently, Erie County is flush with cash from a record setting 2021 surplus and the provision of federal COVID-19 aid in 2021 and 2022. As a result, Erie County has an opportunity to fully fund projects that we normally would install piecemeal, like the installation of additional security measures at the Correctional Facility. The presence of additional security cameras would provide protection to both law enforcement and inmates. The knowledge of the constant video surveillance would deter abusive behavior on the part of corrections officers and would, in-turn, protect the officers and deputies from having to defend false accusations of abuse from inmates.

With the pending discussion of the 2022 Budget, I am requesting that you present the Legislature with a proposal that would provide full video coverage in all areas of the facility. If any of area of the facility is legally unable to be monitored through electronic surveillance, include that fact in your proposal. Please forward your proposal to the Clerk of the Legislature, Mr. Robert Graber, as soon as possible. If you have any questions please feel free call my office directly, at 716-858-2952, or email me at, Frank.Todaro@erie.gov.

I appreciate your attention in this matter and look forward to your proposal.

Sincerely,

Legislator Frank J. Todaro