

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS LORIGO AND GREENE**

RE: Erie County Action Plan to combat Baby Formula Shortage

WHEREAS, the nation's economic concerns that have created supply chain issues and runaway inflation are now impacting the availability of baby formula in store. Locally, this is causing hardship and significant frustration for many Erie County parents and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, current supply chain issues have limited the amount of formula on store shelves for months are now being exacerbated by a voluntary recall of Abbot Nutrition's formula brands, which includes all of their brands that are designed for children with special dietary needs; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that moms, dads, and caregivers can access high quality nutrition for their children must become a top priority before the situation worsens; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, Erie County's Division of Purchasing excelled in procuring scarce personal protective equipment, tests, medical supplies and other necessities at a very challenging time in the supply chain for those commodities; and

WHEREAS, the county is in possession of fiscal and professional resources that could be deployed to ease the burden on moms, dads, and caregivers in Erie County to improve the availability of baby formula for Erie County's youngest residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body acknowledges the hardship that the national baby formula shortage is causing on families in Erie County and recognizes the need to put in place an action plan to help them; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body invites the Director of Purchasing to come before the Legislature to discuss the feasibility of Erie County procuring baby formula on behalf of our residents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body invites the Commissioner of Emergency Services to come before the Legislature to discuss the feasibility of setting up satellite sites throughout Erie County where moms, dads, and caregivers could come and purchase, at our cost, formula for their infant(s); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body invites the County Comptroller to come before the Legislature to discuss the ability of his office to quickly establish a payment processing system to efficiently effectuate the sale of formula at established county managed sites; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body invites the Commissioner of Social Services to come before the Legislature to discuss how this effort can be designed in a way that existing social service clients can utilize benefits made available to them to purchase, at our cost, formula for their infant(s); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body invites the Commissioner of the Department of Health to come before the Legislature to discuss the consequences a continued shortage of baby formula could have on infants and their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body supports the designation of up to \$10 million from Erie County's Fund Balance, or another source identified by the Director of Budget and Management subject to approval by the Legislature, for the purpose of funding the procurement of baby formula and invites the Director of Budget and Management to come before the Legislature to discuss establishing a program to purchase that formula and make it available for sale, at our cost, to Erie County Families who are struggling to acquire it on their own; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified resolutions be sent to the County Executive, County Comptroller, Director of the Division of Purchase, Commissioner of Emergency Services, Commissioner of Health, Commissioner of Social Services and the Director of Budget and Management and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution