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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 6, 2022

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: New York State Clean Energy Internship Program Authorization

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning requesting legislative authorization to accept grant funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Clean Energy Internship Program, to create up to five annual Seasonal Internships, and hire up to fifteen interns through December 31, 2023.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, please contact Deputy Commissioner Bonnie Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb
Enclosure

Cc: Daniel R. Castle, Commissioner, Department of Environment and Planning

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
Re: New York State Clean Energy Internship Program Authorization
Date: May 6, 2022

SUMMARY

Legislative authorization is requested to enter into grant agreements with the New York State Department Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for up to \$78,311 in grant funding from the New York State Clean Energy Internship Program, create five Seasonal Intern positions, and provide funding for the required match, for the period May 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The County share of costs for wages and fringe would be approximately \$37,589.00 for fifteen internships through December 31, 2023, which would be from the Department of Environment and Planning's Paris/Climate Action Fund budget, Account (110), G/L #51310.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Erie County is working on many clean energy projects, including internal operations projects outlined in the Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (such as building energy efficiency and fleet electrification), and also community-facing projects such as development of the Community Climate Action Plan, and the Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy.

NYSERDA has approved Erie County as a participating organization in the New York State Clean Energy Internship Program (Program Opportunity Notice 4000). The program would match 75% of the salary for internships, with a maximum of 480 hours effort per intern, and a maximum term of twelve months per intern. NYSERDA will approve internships individually in this program on a rolling basis.

These internships would be a cost-effective way to increase the County's capacity to conduct its clean energy projects, and will also allow the County to support local workforce development as the community transitions to clean energy. The proposed resolution would create the internship positions and allow the County to accept funding as the individual grants are approved. The County proposes five (5) Seasonal Intern positions are created, and that each position is filled up to three times through December 31, 2023, for a total of up to fifteen (15) internships.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County will not create the Clean Energy Intern positions, and will have less capacity to implement clean energy actions outlined in the adopted Climate Action and Sustainability Plan and will also have less capacity to implement community-facing clean energy projects.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The necessary agreements with NYSERDA will be executed as individual internship applications are approved, grant funding will be appropriated to Fund 110, and five Seasonal Internship positions will be created in DEP.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: New York State Clean Energy Internship Program Authorization

WHEREAS, Erie County is committed to promoting energy conservation and renewable energy, and has several ongoing internal and community-facing clean energy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, internship positions offer a cost-effective way for the County to increase its capacity while supporting development of the local workforce; and

WHEREAS, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has established a program called the New York State Clean Energy Internship Program (NYSCEIP) to provide internships to organizations such as the County; and

WHEREAS, NYSEDA has approved the County as a participating organization in the NYSCEIP program, and the County intends to create five (5) clean energy internships positions and apply for grant funding for up to fifteen (15) individual interns through December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, NYSEDA will approve individual intern-specific grant awards on a rolling basis and fund 75% of the intern salary for a maximum of 480 hours per internship; and

WHEREAS, the County portion of the funding would be from the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) Paris/Climate Action Fund; and

WHEREAS, this necessitates the creation of five (5) Seasonal Intern (JG-1) positions in DEP, and the authorization for the County to execute up to fifteen (15) individual intern-specific grant agreements with NYSEDA as individual intern grants are awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Fund 110 is modified as follows:

REVENUE:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
409000	State Aid Revenues	(\$78,311)
51310	Paris/Climate Action Fund	(\$37,589)
TOTAL REVENUE		(\$115,900)

APPROPRIATIONS:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
500000	Personnel Services	\$ 104,414
502000	Fringe Benefits	\$ 11,486
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:		\$115,900

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements to accept grants from NYSERDA for the purpose of funding Clean Energy Internships for a total value of up to \$78,311, with the term of the agreements ending by December 31, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, the following five internship positions would be created in DEP, with 75% of salaries funded by the New York State Clean Energy Internship Program:

Seasonal Intern (JG-1)
B-100 No. 12854 (five positions)
Budgeted Annual Salary \$6,961 (per position, \$14.502 per hour for 480 hours)

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the County Comptroller; Daniel R. Castle, Commissioner of Environment and Planning; Bonnie Lawrence, Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning; and P. Josh Wilson, Sustainability Director.