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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 13, 2023

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

RE: Support and possible addition to local law 1-1 (2023)

Dear Honorable Members:

At this time, we are writing with enthusiastic support for local law 1-1 (2023). This law will allow for a powerful tool in retention and recruitment efforts for local firefighters and ambulance workers. The use of a lifetime real property tax exemption of up to 10% of the assessed value of real property will allow for an individual who serves their community.

In order to effectively address the recruitment needs of Erie County's diverse first responder network we are asking that this body amends the local law draft to include the Erie County HAZMAT team members. Erie County's HAZMAT Team has been in inception since 1985 and is responsible for responding to the counties dozens of chemical processing plants in the event there is a spill. One of the unique challenges in the sustainment of the HAZMAT Team is that members do not need to belong to a volunteer fire department to participate in this county response service. This leaves limited options available in the ability to attract new members over time.

We humbly request that this honorable body amends the local law draft to include members of the Erie County HAZMAT Team. Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Daniel Neaverth, Jr. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/sab
Enclosure

cc: Daniel Neaverth, Jr. Commissioner of Homeland Security & Emergency Services