

March 25, 2004

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT
COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 4

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. CHAIRMAN HOLT PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, that the following items are hereby received and filed.

Item Page -2004 (Comm. 1M-1)
a. **TOWN OF AMHERST:** Certified Resolution Re: Opposition to Consolidation of ECC
Campuses.
(5-0)

Item Page -2004 (Comm. 7E-16)
b. **WROBLEWSKI:** Update on Draft GEIS for ECC Facilities Master Plan.
(5-0)

Item Page -2004 (Comm. 7M-17)
c. **BHNT ARCHITECTS:** Draft GEIS for ECC Facilities Master Plan 1/16/04.
(5-0)

2. Item Page -2004 (Comm. 7E-29)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, regional cultural assets located in Buffalo and Erie County are increasingly recognized nationally and internationally for their historic, architectural and cultural tourism significance, and these regional assets are integral components in Erie County's regional economic revitalization strategy which includes promoting the business of cultural tourism in our region; and

WHEREAS, in August 2002, the Erie County Legislature's Cultural Funding Working Group endorsed the County Executive's proposal for Erie County to assume sole ownership responsibility from the City of Buffalo for Shea's Performing Arts Center (Shea's), the Buffalo Zoological Gardens (Buffalo Zoo), and Kleinhans Music Hall (Kleinhans), and the County Legislature's Working Group further agreed with the County Executive's proposal to appropriate approximately \$700,000 annually in operating expenses for these three regional assets; and

WHEREAS, based on negotiations that Erie County has held throughout the last several months with representatives from the City of Buffalo, Shea's, Kleinhans, and the Buffalo Zoo, it has been determined that the transfer of ownership of these three city-owned regional cultural assets will relieve the City of Buffalo from significant annual operational financial obligations which approximate \$700,000, in addition to future costs that would be incurred by the City for on-going capital repair and replacement needs for these three regional cultural assets; and

WHEREAS, based on these findings and in consideration of the City of Buffalo's fiscal crisis, the Common Council of the City of Buffalo in late 2003 approved the "City of Buffalo - Erie County Regional Assets Sales Agreement for the Buffalo Zoological Gardens, Shea's Performing

Arts Center, and Kleinhans Music Hall", as prepared by staff from the County of Erie and the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these City-County negotiations, the County has further determined it appears feasible and advisable for the County to assume ownership of these three facilities from the City of Buffalo in order to protect and enhance the legacy and role of these three facilities that are truly regional in scope and focus, and by doing this, the City of Buffalo will be relieved of significant financial obligations that include annual operational expenses, as well as on-going capital repair and replacement costs; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Division of Budget, Management and Finance has confirmed that sufficient funds are available in the Erie County General Fund to address the ownership transfer needs and costs, as noted above, for the Buffalo Zoo, Shea's and Kleinhans,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby granted the authority to execute the "City of Buffalo -Erie County Regional Assets Sales Agreement for the Buffalo Zoological Gardens, Shea's Performing Arts Center, and Kleinhans Music Hall", subject to approval of the final form of the Agreement by the County Attorney; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive; the County Comptroller; the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the Mayor of the City of Buffalo, located at 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York 14202; Donna Fernandes, President of the Zoological Society of Buffalo, located at 300 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14214; and Anthony Conte, CEO of Shea's O'Connell Preservation Guild, located at 646 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14202.

(5-0)

3. Item Page -2004 (Comm. 7E-33)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, Dr. V. Roger Lalli is a retired educator and lifelong resident of Buffalo, who created a series of watercolor paintings based on Buffalo's phenomenal architecture to reflect his admiration for this city; and

WHEREAS, the 42 subjects in the "Buffalo My City" collection reflect aesthetic quality, historical significance, architectural importance, nostalgia, and popularity; and

WHEREAS, the completed collection was first exhibited in May 2001 as part of the Pan-American Centennial Celebration; and

WHEREAS, the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, a City of Buffalo based not-for-profit organization, has agreed to display this 42-piece collection as part of a Visitor Center Gallery to be installed at the Museum, and this display will provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to reflect on the uniqueness of this city as an architectural gem; and

WHEREAS, based on a funding request from Karpeles Manuscript Museum, Erie County has been asked to provide \$5,000 towards the display of the "Buffalo My City" collection,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into the necessary Agreement to provide funds to this organization for purposes noted above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funds in the amount of \$5,000 are hereby transferred from the Regionalism – Economic Development Fund (DAC 110 9043038301299) to the following new sub-account under Contractual Agencies in Department 302, Public Benefit Agencies, as monitored by Environment and Planning:

Karpeles Manuscript Museum	\$5,000
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and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive; the County Comptroller; the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; and Christopher Kelly, Director of Karpeles Manuscript Museum, located at 453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14201.
(5-0)

TIMOTHY M. WROBLEWSKI
CHAIRMAN