

January 9, 2020

FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 1

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT LEGISLATOR MILLS.
CHAIR BASKIN PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the follow items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 3D-1 (2019)
DIRECTOR OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES: “Open Item in Finance & Management Committee - Correction of Errors/NYS Real Property Tax Law”
(Chair’s Ruling)
 - b. COMM. 26E-15 (2019)
COUNTY CLERK: “NYS Mortgage Tax Semi-Annual Report of Receipts & Disbursements for Period 04/01/2019 - 10/31/2019”
(Chair’s Ruling)
 - c. COMM. 1D-2 (2020)
DIRECTOR OF BUDGET & MANAGEMENT: “Budget Monitoring Report for Period Ending 10/2019”
(Chair’s Ruling)
2. COMM. 26E-3 (2019)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services provided a three year grant totaling \$1,455,129 to the County for the provision of indigent defense services; and

WHEREAS, Erie County contracted with the Erie County Bar Association’s Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society and the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo to deliver the services required through the grant; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services has agreed to extend the contract tem for an additional one year period to allow the agencies to complete the terms and conditions of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract amendment with the State of New York Office of Indigent Legal Services, extending the contract term for an additional one year period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into amendments to the subcontracts with the Erie County Bar Association Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society and the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo extending the contract term for an additional one year period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to extend the grant period of 160QID6ILS1618 in the County Attorney’s Office to December 31, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to the grantor award, provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels and county share amounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the County Attorney, the Office of the Comptroller, the County Executive’s Office and the Division of Budget and Management.
(5-0)

3. COMM. 26E-10 (2019)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, after a public hearing, held on October 29, 2019 by Buffalo Place Inc., and upon adoption of Intro 22-1, the Erie County Legislature determined that the total amount to be raised by mall district service charges for 2020 for the downtown pedestrian/transit mall special district shall be the sum of \$1,744,200; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Mall District Budget requires that the amount to be raised by Mall District payments in lieu for 2020 for the downtown pedestrian/transit mall special district shall be the sum of \$52,675.00; and

WHEREAS, the Acting Director of Real Property Tax Services has established the 2020 mall district service charge and payment in lieu roll apportioning the amount to be raised and has transmitted such roll to the Erie County Legislature for adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby adopt the mall district service charge and payment in lieu roll established by the Acting Director of Real Property Tax Services for the purpose of assessing 2020 service charges for the downtown pedestrian/transit mall special district; and be it further

RESOLVED, that 2020 mall district service charges and payment in lieu amounts shall be assessed, due and a lien on benefited properties within the downtown pedestrian/transit mall special district on and as of January 1, 2020 and shall be payable to the Acting Director of Real Property Tax Services as provided in Erie County Local Law No. 8-1984; and be it further

RESOLVED, that late fees shall be collected on payments made after the dates provided in Erie County Local Law No. 8-1984, and an interest budget line of \$10,000.00 shall be added to the Mall Budget for collection of these late fees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish the 2020 Downtown Mall Budget in the amount \$1,806,875 which includes \$1,744,200 for service charges, \$52,675 for payment in lieu, and \$10,000 for interest earnings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Acting Director of Real Property Tax Services is hereby authorized to make adjustments and modifications as deemed appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, Budget Director, County Comptroller, County Attorney, and Nancy M. Snyder, Acting Director Real Property Tax Services.
(5-0)

4. COMM. 26E-14 (2019)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the SUNY Erie Community College Board of Trustees approved a resolution at their September 26, 2019 Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Erie Community College serves as an economic engine that provides a trained workforce and educated citizenry for the State of New York and Erie County; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Erie Community College is an anchor institution that helps to keep our community strong and vibrant by serving major employers, community hubs, and social centers; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Erie Community College serves as the primary catalyst to the middle class by serving more low-income students than any other sector of higher education in the region; and

WHEREAS, community colleges statewide serve nearly half of all undergraduates enrolled in the SUNY System along with nearly as many life-long learners through noncredit classes; and

WHEREAS, a level of predictability in State funding is essential to provide SUNY Erie Community College and community colleges statewide the ability to plan and budget accordingly and recognizes the college's annual fixed costs; and

WHEREAS, the 98% of the previous year or \$100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater, language added to the community college funding model for fiscal year 2019 was a step in the right direction and appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the funding floor should be set in State statute at 100% of the previous year or \$100 increase per FTE, whichever is greater.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby approves fully supports the proposal that New York State change the base state aid formula allocation for each community college to be permanently set at 100% of the previous year or \$100 increase per FTE, whichever is more; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the President of SUNY Erie Community College, and the Chairman of the SUNY Erie Community College Board of Trustees.
(5-0)

TIMOTHY MEYERS
CHAIR