

JUNE 14, 2007

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 9

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
  - a. COMM. 3E-15 (2007)  
**WHYTE:** At Taxpayer's Expense: How Government Policies Encourage Sprawl in Erie and Niagara Counties  
(4-0)
  - b. COMM. 6E-27 (2007)  
**WHYTE:** Blueprint Buffalo  
(4-0)
  - c. COMM. 9D-2 (2007)  
**COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County  
(4-0)
2. COMM. 4E-1 (2007)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
WHEREAS, the County Department of Law is presently housed in space at 69 Delaware Avenue, pursuant to the terms of a three (3) year lease extension, dated September 29, 2004, which commenced January 1, 2005 and ends December 31, 2007 (the "2004 Lease Extension"); and

WHEREAS, the 2004 Lease Extension provides for the option of an additional two (2) year lease period, which would commence January 1, 2008 and conclude on December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, since no other space options for the County Department of Law have moved forward and a new County Administration will take office on or about January 1, 2008, the day after the slated expiration of the 2004 Lease Extension, it is prudent to opt for the further extension of occupancy at 69 Delaware Avenue, for the two (2) year term required by the 2004 Lease Extension.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into a two (2) year agreement for leasing the space at 69 Delaware Avenue for the period from January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2009, as agreed to in the 2004 Lease Extension; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, as set forth in the 2004 Lease Extension, the 2008 Base Rent shall be \$15,500/month and the 2009 Base Rent shall be \$16,000/month; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement governing the Law Department's occupancy of space at 69 Delaware for the period from January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2009, shall reflect and incorporate all other terms agreed to in the 2004 Lease Extension; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies if this Resolution be forwarded to the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Law.  
(4-0)

3. COMM. 9D-1 (2007)  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
WHEREAS, the New York State Board of Elections has forwarded three grant contracts to the Erie County Board of Elections for approval and execution; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance and execution by the Commissioners of the Erie County Board of Elections would provide for the receipt of grant money in the aggregate amount of \$1,015,938 for the specific purposes of establishing, expanding and improving access to and participation by individuals with a full range of disabilities in the election process and educate individuals on the proper use of new voting systems, including ballot marking devices; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Erie County Board of Election believe the funds to be obtained by these means are beneficial to the residents of the County and are desirous of entering said contracts; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney has reviewed each of the contracts, and subject to the requisite approvals, believes them to be in proper form; and

WHEREAS, approval of this legislative body and the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority is a pre-requisite for the acceptance of these contracts by the Erie County Board of Elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby approve and accept the contracts entitled "1) New York State Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities – Polling Place Access Improvement," "2) HHS Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities – Polling Place Access Improvement," and "3) Voter Education / Pollworker Training Program" and does hereby authorize the Commissioners of the Erie County Board of Elections, subject to the approval of the Erie County Fiscal

Stability Authority, to approve and execute each of the aforesaid contracts between the Erie County Board of Elections and the New York State Board of Elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Erie County Board of Elections for inclusion among the documents required by the New York State Board of Elections to accompany said executed agreements.

(4-0)

4. INTRO 10-4 (2007) **AS AMENDED**

**WHYTE, KENNEDY, LOCKLEAR and REYNOLDS**

WHEREAS, communities across the county are struggling to cope with the proliferation of vacant and abandoned properties of the residential, industrial, and commercial nature; and

WHEREAS, an innovative approach utilized by some communities to address vacant properties is the creation of a Land Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Genesee County Land Bank in Michigan was created in 1999 through an intermunicipal agreement with the county and the city, and by the end of 2004, the Land Bank has taken titles to 4,400 parcels of the land in the City of Flint, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, members of this Legislative body have engaged in dialogue with elected officials in Genesee County regarding Land Banking; and

WHEREAS, using Genesee County as a model, a Buffalo—and eventually Erie County—Land Bank could be established with the authority to do the following:

- Property acquisition;
- Leasing and sales;
- Administration, inventory, and assessment of existing parcels and structures;
- Planning
- Property management and maintenance;
- Demolition;
- Financial assistance for non-profits to redevelop properties in targeted neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature is currently considering legislation to authorize municipalities to create Land Banks in its bills A8059 and S5366.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature joins the Common Council of the City of Buffalo in supporting the passage of the New York State Legislature's Land Banking Bills; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution go to the County Executive, County Attorney, Western New York State delegation, the Mayor of the City of Buffalo, the Common Council of the City of Buffalo, and the ECIDA.

(4-0)

**MARIA R. WHYTE**  
**CHAIRPERSON**