



## EXECUTIVE ORDER #024

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUMITOMO RUBBER PLANT CLOSURE TASK FORCE

**WHEREAS**, the Sumitomo Rubber USA tire plant in the Town of Tonawanda has been in operation since 1923; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 7, 2024, the board of directors of Sumitomo Rubber Industries in Japan voted to immediately close operations at the Sumitomo Rubber USA plant in Tonawanda; and

**WHEREAS**, this action has resulted in the unemployment of 1,550 dedicated employees and western New York community members; and

**WHEREAS**, the plant's closure will leave an approximately 130 acre facility without an occupant or productive use; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic consequences from this closure impact individuals, families, corresponding businesses, the Town of Tonawanda, the Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District, Erie County, and the broader western New York region; and

**WHEREAS**, Erie County has a strong track record of convening stakeholders and addressing pressing challenges.


**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK C. POLONCARZ**, Erie County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the County of Erie Charter Sections 301 and 302, do hereby order as follows:

1. The empaneling of a Sumitomo Rubber Plant Closure Task Force (the Task Force) to collectively address the immediate impacts and near- and long-term consequences of the facility's closure;
2. The Task Force will have three main objectives:
  - i. To address the needs of the displaced workforce and work collectively to place Erie County residents into gainful employment; and
  - ii. To address the future of the building, infrastructure, and property; and
  - iii. To ensure matters related to the first two objectives and any additional matters which may arise are addressed in a collaborative, communicative setting where all parties are working in concert;
3. The Task Force shall consist of one representative from each of the following entities:
  - i. Erie County Executive's Office,
  - ii. Workforce Buffalo,
  - iii. ECIDA / ILDC,
  - iv. Town of Tonawanda,
  - v. Buffalo Central Labor Council,
  - vi. United Steelworkers,

- vii. Empire State Development,
  - viii. New York State Department of Labor
  - ix. Invest Buffalo Niagara,
  - x. Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and
  - xi. National Grid;
4. The Task Force shall meet on a to-be-determined schedule, and additionally as needed; and
5. The Task force shall remain empaneled as long as deemed necessary.

**GIVEN**, under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Erie in the City of Buffalo on this eleventh day of December, in the year two thousand twenty-four.

County of Erie

By:   
Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive