

MARCH 8, 2007

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 4

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. INTRO 3-5 (2007) **AS AMENDED**  
**RANZENHOFER, MILLS, LOUGHRAN, GRANT & KONST**

WHEREAS, The New York State Association of Counties issued a report in November of 2006 outlining several policies the State of New York could reform for the benefit of counties throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, according to the report, Counties were recently advised by the Office of Children and Family Services that the rates for the local share of State Training School Placements would increase by approximately \$28 million, an increase of 51%, and

WHEREAS, The Office of Children and Family Services notified counties that retroactive payments would be required from January 2001 through 2005, representing a local impact that could reach hundreds of millions when calculated by Children and Family Services, and

WHEREAS, The Office of Children and Family Services has ignored their administrative responsibility by not updating rates since 2001 and are asking property taxpayers to pay for their mistake, and

WHEREAS, County budgets are in place for 2007 and a retroactive billing of this magnitude will force counties to cut other essential services and increase property taxes to cover this unanticipated expense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature joins the New York State Association of Counties in urging the Governor to hold counties harmless for the retroactive billing and work with the county to reform the Office of Child and Family Services' administrative process to ensure that this situation is not repeated, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the New York State Governor, the County Executive, the Budget Director, Members of the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority, and members of the Local State Legislative Delegation.  
(4-0)

2. COMM. 5E-16 (2007) **AS AMENDED**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has already appropriated funds for the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) grant for the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services (Department) regularly compares grant contract budgets with actual costs, and

WHEREAS, the Department, in conjunction with the cluster agencies, has identified CSE funds that some of the cluster agencies will be unable to use prior to March 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Department and the cluster agencies desire that these funds be used for residential repairs for frail, low-income seniors who need such assistance to maintain their independence in their home, and

WHEREAS, the CSE grant budget is in need of revision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the budget for the CSE grant, 163CSE0607, be revised as follows:

		CURRENT		AMENDED
		BUDGET	CHANGES	BUDGET
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
Account	Description			
516010	American Red Cross	\$10,000	-\$5,000	\$5,000
516010	Hispanics United of Buffalo	19,000	-8,400	10,600
516010	Old First Ward	24,000	-3,000	21,000
516010	Schiller Park Comm. Center	178,325	-13,000	165,325
516010	South Buffalo Comm. Center	109,251	-3,000	106,251
516010	Town of Amherst Senior Center	16,420	-5,000	11,420
516010	West Side Community Services	19,000	-3,000	16,000
516020	Professional Fees-Aide Transit	5,000	-5,000	0
530000	Minor Residential Repair	75,720	45,400	121,120
			<b>TOTAL CHANGE</b>	<b>\$0</b>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office; the Division of Budget, Management and Finance; the Comptroller's Office and the Department of Senior Services.

(4-0)

3. COMM. 5E-17 (2007)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the County leases space for Social Services operations at 478 Main Street (Hens and Kelly Building) from the Mohawk Group under a lease that was to expire on December 31, 2006 and that was recently extended for a 3 month period by Legislative Resolution Comm 25E-18, and

WHEREAS, the landlord is proposing a new five year lease for the period April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the proposal includes fixed total annual base rent over the five year lease period that is lower than the previous amount of rent paid, and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease includes a clause enabling the County to vacate the entire first and second floors upon 180 days notice and the remaining floors upon 18 months notice in the event that the County would consolidate space and choose to move functions from 478 Main Street, and, in addition, the County may relocate the HEAP office to the first floor as currently planned and vacate the lower level at any time without prior notice and will not incur a cost for the lower level space for the period April 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007 by which time the proposed relocation will be completed, and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding for the lease of space at 478 Main Street is included in the 2007 adopted budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the County Executive is authorized to enter into a lease agreement for 115,909 square feet of space at 478 Main Street for the period April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2012 at the annual base rental amount of \$1,419,885, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the actual annual costs of electric service, repairs and renovation during the lease term and for tax escalation increases, above that amount paid in year 2002, will be paid by the County as additional rent, and estimates of these costs are already included in the 2007 adopted budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, section 19.08 of the County Administrative Code requirement for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is waived based on the favorable terms provided, the prohibitive cost of moving and the

delay in completion of a comprehensive restructuring and space assessment for all County owned and leased facilities, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance.

(4-0)

**THOMAS J. MAZUR**  
**CHAIRMAN**