

MAY 1, 2008

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 5

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT LEGISLATOR KOZUB. CHAIR MARINELLI PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
  - a. INTRO 3-4 (2007)  
**RANZENHOFER & MILLS:** In Support of NYSAC Recommendations Regarding the Taylor Law  
(4-1) Legislator Mills voted in the negative.
  - b. COMM. 7E-13 (2008)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE:** Directive Concerning Erie County Policy to Follow the Framework for Regional Growth  
(5-0)
  - c. COMM. 8E-26 (2008)  
**IANNELLO:** 2008 Legislative Development Package  
(5-0)
  - d. COMM. 8D-2 (2008)  
**COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County  
(5-0).
  - e. COMM. 8D-3 (2008)  
**COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County  
(5-0)
  - f. COMM. 8D-6 (2008)  
**COUNTY ATTORNEY:** Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County  
(5-0)
  - g. COMM. 8M-3 (2008)  
**NFTA:** NFTA Board Minutes for Meeting Held on February 25, 2008  
(5-0)

- h. COMM. 8M-4 (2008)  
**LEGAL AID BUREAU OF BUFFALO, INC.:** Monthly Report and Monthly Activity Report for March 2008  
(5-0)
2. INTRO 8-3 (2008)  
**KOZUB**  
WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Erie County that the county workforce be both diversified and committed to providing superior, cost-effective public service to the residents and taxpayers of Erie County; and  
  
WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature believes there is another category of prospective employee that potentially encompasses all these categories of diversity – gender, race, creed and ethnicity; and  
  
WHEREAS, Erie County’s veterans offer unique skills and characteristics to the county workforce, especially an unparalleled commitment to public service; and  
  
WHEREAS, the vast majority of county employees are recruited through the competitive civil service; and  
  
WHEREAS, opportunities for entering the county workforce also include non-competitive positions for certain trained and licensed professionals, as well as positions for which there is continuous recruitment, particularly those in the health professions; and  
  
WHEREAS, the education and training veterans receive would bode well for the services provided throughout county government, including but not limited to public health and safety, together with law enforcement, corrections and social work; and  
  
WHEREAS, there are national, state and local organizations that encourage and promote the hiring of veterans, including Hire Heroes USA, which is the link to career opportunities for disabled veterans so that they may earn livelihoods to enjoy the freedoms they sought and fought to preserve; and  
  
WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature wishes to ensure that there is sufficient policy development, strategic planning and public information efforts undertaken by the Department of Personnel and the Veterans’ Services Office to recruit veterans, particularly the men and women returning from deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests that the Commissioner of Personnel and the Director of the Veterans' Services Office come before the Government Affairs Committee to describe their efforts to recruit veterans for positions in county government; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, Personnel Commissioner and the Director of the Veterans' Services Office.  
(5-0)

3. INTRO 8-5 (2008)

**REYNOLDS**

WHEREAS, Lockport County Television (LCTV) is one of the jewels of Niagara and Erie County; and

WHEREAS, LCTV is a valued asset of the entire Niagara & Erie County community and region; and

WHEREAS, Legislative Journal with Tom Christy was one of the most popular shows on LCTV, and

WHEREAS, the cable program Legislative Journal with Tom Christy was one of the only forums for true open public discussions with local government officials, and

WHEREAS, elected government officials were able to openly discuss with the public and taxpayers budget issues, resolutions and policies made by government, and

WHEREAS, Tom Christy volunteered at LCTV for over ten years and has donated his time and talents to the Western New York community for all our benefit, and

WHEREAS, LCTV has announced that the Legislative Journal program has been taken off the air, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that LCTV is the creation and under the direct control of the citizens of the City and Town of Lockport and is represented by a Board of Directors and a cable commission, and

WHEREAS, the revenues from the cable operator were dedicated by the City and Town of Lockport for the operation of this not-for-profit corporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature go on record in support of returning Legislative Journal with Tom Christy back on the air; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature request the City of Lockport Mayor and Alderman, Town of Lockport Supervisor and the Council also join us in support of re-instating Legislative Journal to LCTV; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forward to the Niagara County Legislature, City of Lockport Mayor Tucker, City of Lockport Alderman, Town of Lockport Supervisor Marc Smith, Town of Lockport Council, the NYS Cable Commission and the Board of Directors of LCTV.  
(5-0)

4. INTRO 8-20 (2008)

**WHYTE**

WHEREAS, the State of New York began leasing its former waterfront armory located at 5 Porter Avenue to the Chief Petty Officers Club in the 1970s, establishing a long history of camaraderie among military reservists, retirees, and veterans as well all residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the CPO Club has hosted numerous public and private functions over the years, including weekly fish fries, weddings, and large community events, all of which enjoyed the Club's one-of-a-kind atmosphere and scenic view of the Niagara River; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the CPO building has accrued numerous health and safety violations, prompting the NYS Department of Military and Naval Affairs to recently issue a notice of eviction; and

WHEREAS, New York State Assemblymember Sam Hoyt has been working with the DMNA, the New York State Historic Preservation Office, and other state officials to both reconsider the eviction of the CPO Club and discourage a demolition of the historic building; and

WHEREAS, the CPO Club is among many West Side institutions hoping to see renewed interest and investment as development of the region's waterfront continues, including the West Side Rowing Club, the Frank Lloyd Wright Boathouse, and the Buffalo Yacht Club.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature values the historic significance of both the Chief Petty Officers Club and the building located at 5 Porter Avenue, and is opposed to plans for demolition as a solution to the numerous health and safety violations accrued over recent years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature applauds the efforts of state officials, including Assemblymember Sam Hoyt and the Department of Military and Naval Affairs, to find a creative solution to this important issue affecting our waterfront and community.  
(5-0)

5. COMM. 8E-15 (2008)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Charter Section 402(a), as revised, as well as numerous provisions of the Erie County Tax Act, make it clear that the legal responsibility for the collection of Erie County real property taxes rests with the Department or Real Property Tax Services; and

WHEREAS, the personnel who actually perform the tax collection function were transferred to the Comptroller's Office in connection with the 2006 Charter changes; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller's Office has administered the tax collection function since May 2007; and

WHEREAS, upon further review and discussion between the Comptroller's Office, Department of Real Property Tax Services and the Law Department, it has been determined and agreed that the three positions responsible for performing these functions should be transferred from the Comptroller's Office to the Department of Real Property Tax Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby provides authorization to delete the following three positions from the Comptroller's Office (Cost Center 11200 – B100#3741) and transfer them to the Department of Real Property Tax Services (Cost Center 11100):

Position Number 53 – Account Clerk-Typist (JG IV) – B100# 3763  
Position Number 51004384 – Senior Clerk Typist (JG IV) – B100# 3768  
Position Number 51004383 – Jr. Cashier-Property Tax Services (JG V) – B100# 3769,

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management and the Commissioner of Personnel are authorized to make any changes necessary to effectuate the implementation of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that these transfers are to be effective upon passage of this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of Real Property Tax Services, the Commissioner of Personnel and the Director of Budget and Management.  
(5-0)

**BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS**  
**CHAIR**