

June 25, 2013

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 11

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR GRANT PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 11M-8 (2013)
BUFFALO COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER PRIDGEN: “Letter to Chair of Legislature Concerning Wrapped Metro Rail Cars”
(6-0)
 - b. COMM. 12E-7 (2013)
MILLS: “Letter to County Attorney Concerning Local Law Intro. No. 3-2013”
(5-1) Legislator Mills voted in the negative.
 - c. COMM. 12D-4 (2013)
COUNTY ATTORNEY: “Response Letter to Legislator Mills Concerning Local Law Intro. No. 3-2013”
(5-1) Legislator Mills voted in the negative.
 - d. COMM. 12M-8 (2013)
RONALD R. DRAFFIN: “Letter to Legislature Concerning NFTA Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks”
(6-0)
 - e. COMM. 12M-10 (2013)
BOARD OF EDUCATION: “Copy of Approved Resolution Concerning NFTA Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks”
(6-0)
2. INTRO 10-6 (2013)
GRANT & HOGUES
WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Erie County Legislature that Light Rail Cars that are part of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority’s (NFTA’s) public transit system now feature advertising by private corporations that sell products containing alcohol; and

WHEREAS, there are at least three such train cars that advertise a brand of beer brewed by a nationally known company, essentially serving as billboards traveling on the light rail transit line; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has a valid concern regarding the advertising of certain products on property or equipment that serves a public purpose and is subsidized by tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, certain tax revenues are collected and distributed to the NFTA by Erie County as part of a long-standing agreement “to keep the buses and trains running,” an agreement that dates back to the late 1980s; and

WHEREAS, use of alcoholic products by underage minors and abuse of alcoholic products by people of all ages is a major concern to public health and medical professionals, resulting in considerable costs to insurance companies and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, public transit is highly utilized by high school students in our community as their sole means of transport to school; and

WHEREAS, economically disadvantaged individuals undergoing treatment for alcohol and substance abuse travel to their counseling sessions aboard NFTA buses and trains; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body believes it sends the wrong message for a public authority such as the NFTA – in large part funded with federal, state and local tax dollars – to accept money from advertisers that promote the use of products containing alcohol.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature convey its opposition to the advertising of products containing alcohol on or within the light rail cars and buses that compose the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority’s (NFTA’s) public transit system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that representatives of the NFTA and Dr. Wesley Hicks, the County Legislature’s appointee to the NFTA Board, are requested to attend an upcoming meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee of the Erie County Legislature to explain the advertising policy of the NFTA and to provide these representatives with the opportunity to hear the views of the government body that approves and distributes a portion of revenue it collects to the NFTA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to Kimberly Minkel, Executive Director of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority; Dr. Wesley Hicks; the NFTA Board, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Commissioner of Health, Gale Burstein; the Erie County Commissioner of Mental Health; Mayor Byron Brown; the Buffalo Common Council; the Executive Director of the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; and all others deemed necessary and proper.

(4-2) Legislator Mills & Dixon voted in the negative.

3. COMM. 11E-10 (2013)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health has received a grant award in the amount of \$11,000 from the Department of Health & Human Services through the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to provide funding for the coordination and recruitment for the S.M.A.R.T. (Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team); and

WHEREAS, the mission of S.M.A.R.T. requires personnel and volunteer leadership to engage in active deployments, drills, and trainings in Erie County, New York State, and nationally; and the uniform appearance of members is essential for identification and safety; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to promote the activities of S.M.A.R.T. for recruitment and membership sustainment and education of the public on the capabilities of S.M.A.R.T. and the goals of the Medical Reserve Corps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into a contract and with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to establish funding in the Health Department Grant fund as follows:

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
5/1/13 – 7/31/13

	REVENUE	BUDGET
414000	Federal Aid	<u>\$11,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$11,000</u>
	EXPENSES	
505200	Clothing Supplies	\$2,000
516020	Professional Services Contracts & Fees	<u>\$9,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$11,000</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriation and revenue which may be impacted by changes to grantor awards, provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, the Department of Law and Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner, in the Department of Health, 9th Floor, Rath Building.
(6-0)

THOMAS J. MAZUR
CHAIR