



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. FRANK J. TODARO  
8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATOR

September 30, 2026

Mr. Troy P. Schinzel  
Commissioner  
Erie County Parks, Recreation & Forestry  
95 Franklin Street – 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

## **RE: Como Lake Park Shelter Renovation Request for Information**

Dear Commissioner Schinzel:

Last month, you announced the opening of a newly renovated Shelter 14 at Como Lake Park in Lancaster. The shelter is adjacent to the all-inclusive playground that the Legislature fought for and funded that many families are enjoying. Notably, this shelter is also very accessible, and I commend you and your team for that. I have supported millions in investments in our parks system and will continue to do so. They are truly a jewel in our community, and I want to see them used more. However, I want to make sure money appropriated for the parks is spent wisely.

I am very concerned about the stated \$510,000 cost for the renovation. I recently visited the shelter. I found it to be very nice, but I fail to see how that much money was spent. For those who have not seen the structure, here is what I observed it to be:

- 24x60' Concrete Pad and Walkway
- 10x10 Concrete Pad for Grills/Cooking
- 10 Pillars/Columns
  - 4 Include WPA Stone Construction, that appear to have been restored not replaced
- Exterior Siding and Soffit on each end
- Metal Roofing & Components
- Parking Lot Guardrail
- Electrical (Minor)
- Picnic Tables



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

I understand that the County is subject to many purchasing regulations that drive the cost of projects up, which is why I oppose them, but I still fail to see \$510,000 in work here. I visited the shelter and took notes and measurements about the structure and priced out some of the items. Here is what I came up with:

| Project Component(s)    | Description                                                                                      | Known Materials                                                                      | Estimated Cost | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cement/Concrete Pad     | Covered Pad:<br>60'x24' - Grill Pad:<br>10'x10' - Sidewalk:<br>216'x6'                           | 1181.67 Cubic Feet of Concrete - Assumes 5' Depth - Foundation Slab \$6-\$11 sq. ft. | \$12,998.37    | <a href="https://www.calculator.net/concrete-calculator.html">https://www.calculator.net/concrete-calculator.html</a><br><a href="https://www.slabcalc.co/calculators/concrete-cost-calculator">https://www.slabcalc.co/calculators/concrete-cost-calculator</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Metal Roofing           | Corrugated Metal Roof - 60x24<br>Shelter - 80' Peak                                              | 1647.3 Sq. Ft. Roofing Material - \$7-\$12 sq. ft.                                   | \$19,767.60    | <a href="https://www.westernstatesmetalroofing.com/metal-roof-cost">https://www.westernstatesmetalroofing.com/metal-roof-cost</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Metal Roofing Ridge Cap | 60 Feet of Ridge Cap                                                                             | Ridge Cap - 10 Ft - \$34.98 x6                                                       | \$209.99       | <a href="https://www.homedepot.com">https://www.homedepot.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Roof Trusses            | 33 Trusses - Spaced 24' on center                                                                | Roof Truss - \$371 per truss                                                         | \$12,243       | <a href="https://allroofingcalculators.com/calculators/roof-truss-calculator/">https://allroofingcalculators.com/calculators/roof-truss-calculator/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Roof Base               | OSB Sheathing for Roof Base                                                                      | 1440 Sq Ft of 1/2 Inch OSB - 45 sheets at \$14.47 each                               | \$651          | <a href="https://www.lowes.com/pd/1-2-CAT-PS2-10-OSB-Sheathing-Application-as-4-x-8/1000068915?user=shopping&amp;feed=yes-_-0?store=2434&amp;cm_mmc=shp_-b_-prd_-lum_-ggl_-LIA_LUM_000_PRO_-1000068915_-local_-21009009818_-&amp;gclid=aw.ds&amp;gad_source=1&amp;gad_campaignid=21009009818&amp;gbraid=0AAAAAD2B2W84i2j-ClQ5egsjULXqC3lyU&amp;gclid=Cj0KCQjwzsjVBhC3ARIsALnMv4l0mxwkmA1RzTZ_pA-CS-Du41_GC_UWEZOri0AvTX6Kv6KpmJ5_Z_waAmOmEALw_wcB">https://www.lowes.com/pd/1-2-CAT-PS2-10-OSB-Sheathing-Application-as-4-x-8/1000068915?user=shopping&amp;feed=yes-_-0?store=2434&amp;cm_mmc=shp_-b_-prd_-lum_-ggl_-LIA_LUM_000_PRO_-1000068915_-local_-21009009818_-&amp;gclid=aw.ds&amp;gad_source=1&amp;gad_campaignid=21009009818&amp;gbraid=0AAAAAD2B2W84i2j-ClQ5egsjULXqC3lyU&amp;gclid=Cj0KCQjwzsjVBhC3ARIsALnMv4l0mxwkmA1RzTZ_pA-CS-Du41_GC_UWEZOri0AvTX6Kv6KpmJ5_Z_waAmOmEALw_wcB</a> |
| Posts                   | Posts utilized in center of structure, not four corners to support engineered beams holding roof | 8x8x12 Ground Contact Post - \$100.81 each                                           | \$604.86       | <a href="https://www.homedepot.com/p/ProWood-8-in-x-8-in-x-12-ft-2-Ground-Contact-Pressure-Treated-Timber-103802/206089774">https://www.homedepot.com/p/ProWood-8-in-x-8-in-x-12-ft-2-Ground-Contact-Pressure-Treated-Timber-103802/206089774</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Parking Rail - Posts    | 22 posts supporting a parking rail guard, posts are 8x8, above ground ~3' - Assume below 3'      | 11 - 8x8x12 Ground Contact Posts                                                     | \$1,108.91     | <a href="https://www.homedepot.com/p/ProWood-8-in-x-8-in-x-12-ft-2-Ground-Contact-Pressure-Treated-Timber-103802/206089774">https://www.homedepot.com/p/ProWood-8-in-x-8-in-x-12-ft-2-Ground-Contact-Pressure-Treated-Timber-103802/206089774</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

|                         |                                                                                              |                                                                                        |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parking Rail - Guard    | 4x8 Rail, Spans ~80' - Attached to Parking Rail Posts                                        | 10 - 4x8x10 Ground Contact Posts/Beams - \$88.10 each                                  | \$881              | <a href="https://www.homedepot.com/p/Construction-Select-4-in-x-8-in-x-10-ft-Ground-Contact-Hem-Fir-Pressure-Treated-Timber-10021225/100027423">https://www.homedepot.com/p/Construction-Select-4-in-x-8-in-x-10-ft-Ground-Contact-Hem-Fir-Pressure-Treated-Timber-10021225/100027423</a> |
| LVL Engineered Beams    | LVL Beams Supporting Roof - Appear to be 1 3/4x14 Sistered x 3 Covering 186 Feet of Distance | 558 Feet of 1.75'x14' Engineered Beams = 28 qty 20ft beams @ \$180.40 each             | \$5,051.20         | <a href="https://www.jaegerlumber.com/p/20e-175-x-14-x-20-lvl/14LVL20?srsId=AU7gw4UlyQwsokvqSfqf3QODKRAsetliQ_aUyS0btCSQT2-qo_xEPgzi">https://www.jaegerlumber.com/p/20e-175-x-14-x-20-lvl/14LVL20?srsId=AU7gw4UlyQwsokvqSfqf3QODKRAsetliQ_aUyS0btCSQT2-qo_xEPgzi</a>                     |
| Composite Siding/Soffit | ~200 sq ft siding components for each end                                                    | Hard Board or Polymer Composite Siding and Soffit - \$15 - \$30 sq ft.                 | \$6,000            | <a href="https://www.peakandvalleyroofing.com/vinyl-siding-cost-per-square-foot-2026-complete-price-breakdown/">https://www.peakandvalleyroofing.com/vinyl-siding-cost-per-square-foot-2026-complete-price-breakdown/</a>                                                                 |
| Picnic Tables           | ADA Compliant Picnic Tables                                                                  | 12 Picnic Tables / ADA Compliant - \$926 each                                          | \$11,112           | <a href="https://www.theparkcatalog.com/8-ft-heavy-duty-single-sided-ada-wooden-picnic-table">https://www.theparkcatalog.com/8-ft-heavy-duty-single-sided-ada-wooden-picnic-table</a>                                                                                                     |
| Charcoal Grills         | 2 - 1040 Sq. Inch Grills - 36'x32'                                                           | 2 Grills - \$973 Each                                                                  | \$1,946            | <a href="https://www.theparkcatalog.com/super-1040-sq-premium-park-grill?utm_source=SiteSearch&amp;utm_medium=M2&amp;utm_campaign=Product">https://www.theparkcatalog.com/super-1040-sq-premium-park-grill?utm_source=SiteSearch&amp;utm_medium=M2&amp;utm_campaign=Product</a>           |
| Hardware Components     | Various Hardware Estimate                                                                    | Carriage Bolt Sets, Pier Blocks, Hurricane Ties, Deck Screws, Joist Hanger Nails, Etc. | \$1,000            | Estimate Based on 75 Carriage Bolt Sets, 100 Hurricane Ties, 6 Pier Blocks, Roofing Nails at 80 per sq 100, \$100 in misc hardware                                                                                                                                                        |
|                         |                                                                                              | <b>Materials Estimate:</b>                                                             | <b>\$73,574.08</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

For the purpose of calculating the costs for the various components of the structure, I always chose the higher end of a price range and in some cases chose estimates that included delivery and installation of the product. My goal was to be fair in assessing the true cost of these items. If I were to build this at my house, most of the supplies could be obtained for \$73,574, a price that includes installation of the roofing system and pouring of the concrete pads.

Again, I will reiterate that I understand the government has different rules for purchasing than the private sector, but the cost of this project was nearly seven times the advertised material cost for most of the components. I am concerned that the investment we are



## ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

### REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

making in our parks is not going as far as it can and want a better understanding of how it is being spent.

I am writing to request a full accounting of expenditures related to the renovation of Shelter 14 at Como Lake Park. I am also requesting copies of any architectural drawings or building plans associated with this shelter project. Please provide this information to me as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank J. Todaro".

FRANK J. TODARO  
Erie County Legislator

cc: The Honorable Erie County Legislature

Hon. Kevin R. Hardwick  
Erie County Comptroller