



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Via Zoom/In Person

Knowledge Park

5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510

March 21, 2024

ZOOM Meeting Information:

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82814850627>

Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2024
5. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Treasurer’s Report
  - b. Strategic Planning Committee
  - c. Update from County Council
  - d. Update from County Executive’s Office
10. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
11. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Harvest 912 grant amendment
- b. Youth Leadership Institute of Erie loan amendment
- c. Impact Investment Revisions
- d. Resolution Number 3, 2024 – Resolution to Adopt the Erie City Moms Pilot Project

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 5, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreements with forty-five (45) Erie County Special Events grant applicants, whose events take place between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024
- b. Resolution Number 6, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreements with seven (7) Erie County applicants for Mission Main Street grants
- c. Resolution Number 7, 2024 – Resolution to Approve the Union Township Community Facilities grant
- d. Resolution Number 8, 2024 – Resolution to Adopt the 2024-2025 Budget

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

### Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting  
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510; Board Room  
ZOOM meeting – details to follow



## **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

### **Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**

**February 15, 2024**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on February 15, 2024 in the Board Room; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:30 am.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mr. Barney: An Executive Session for the purposes of Personnel was held on January 23, 2024 at the office of Knox Law Firm at 120 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16501.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Amatangelo, Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, Mr. Winschel, and Council Chairman Terry Scutella are present in person. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person. Guests in the audience include County Executive Davis, Councilman Bayle, Councilman Copeland, Councilwoman Shauerman, and Chris Carroll. Andre Horton is participating via zoom.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 6-0.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2024**

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 6-0.

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Hess: Just a couple brief comments. The first thing I want to say is, you know, over the last couple of weeks to a month, for lack of a better word, the bullying and intimidation that has come across our desks, to me is unconscionable. The good work that ECGRA has done is something that I'm so proud of here as an ECGRA board member and that we should be proud of as a community. I see some familiar faces here, and I think about the communities that we've supported. Whether it was North East or Girard, or Corry or Union City that helps with the revitalization of some of these areas, whether it was organizations that have supported women, children, hungry, the homeless; those are all things that ECGRA has supported. And I'm so proud of that. And that's been led by Perry, supported by Tammi and Tom, and I couldn't be more proud of this organization. And I think my fellow board members would say the same thing. So, thank you to Perry, to Tammi and to Tom. What you've endured over the last couple of weeks, to me is not only unconscionable it's actually laughable, so I'll leave it at that.

## COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would like to just commend the board members for staying above the fray; it has been a trying time since the last meeting. And you know, some of it comes with the job and I guess some of it is just cups. But you know, I commend each and every one of you for not adding fuel to the fire.

Do we have any members of the public here to speak? I see we do. I would like to make note that those who have wrote in or called to let us know that they would like to speak, they have five minutes. If after that, anyone has anything to say share, you will have three minutes. So, right now I see Cindy Wells, Borough of Union City. She may not have been able to make it. Kelly Stolar, Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. Are you present? Ray Luniewski – Lake Erie Fanfare and German Heritage Festival. Are you here? Okay then. Mark Tanenbaum, Performing Artists Collective Alliance.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Tanenbaum: Hi, everyone. Thanks for having me today. Appreciate you allowing me to address the body. I appreciate your time. But more than that, I appreciate the support that has come to PACA over the years. My name is Mark Tenenbaum. I'm the Executive Director of PACA the Performing Arts Collective Alliance. I'm here today to offer my full unqualified support of the ECGRA work. PACA is a 501 C 3 not-for-profit arts and entertainment entity located at 1501-09 State Street. We moved into the PACA building and there were five tenants in that building. Over 75% of the building was completely available of the 70,000 square feet that that building is; big, huge building. Overwhelmingly it was empty. The gas, the electric, the water had intermittently been turned off and on. The windows were boarded up all across State Street. There were no lights. It was scary. Our building was the proverbial eyesore on State Street. We were the picture of blight. There's no doubt about it. But a group of us decided to take it upon ourselves to make a difference and we decided to be the change that we wanted to see. And we cleaned up decades of rubbish, put in heaters and electric light grids, carpeting, walls, and risers, and put on our very first show. We saved our money, we reinvested it into additional improvements in our property and we put on more shows. We kept improving our space and doing more work. We renovated studio spaces and found more artists who needed space to work. In time we bought the property from the owner. We have invested into downtown Erie in a

substantial way and we did it before many higher profile organizations decided to join us. We've been there almost 12 years now.

We pay prevailing wage. We hire union companies. We buy materials from local distributors. We got on the National Historic Register. We were the first property to be on the local Erie Historic Register. We pay 100% of our real estate taxes even though we don't have to pay a dime; We pay 100% of school, county, and city because we want to be really good citizens and we want to be in good standing. We want to support the work that's done out there. We now have over 50 full-time tenants as artists and entrepreneurs in our building. We are completely full. I have one open studio out of all of the studios that I have. I'm at 98% occupancy. We provide space and we support immigrants. We have the most diverse collection of Erie-ites possible. We've had tenants that have moved in and now move on into other places. We're kind of an incubator for business. In any year that comes there are no less than 250 events in our building. Sometimes there are three or four public events in the same night. This week alone, we had five public events; we had one last night and we were packed. We had one and Clay Space had one. They've been there for 40 years.

The arts are economic development. The arts are sustained, concerted actions that promote the standard of living and economic health in Erie County. The arts are drivers of quantitative and qualitative changes in our economy. ECGRA thoroughly supports all of this progress. ECGRA has helped PACA with an Anchor Building grant, but they didn't do so on our first try. We were initially turned down. We had to prove ourselves. ECGRA set high standards, ECGRA had a rigorous application process, they provided the funds in stages. They oversaw the expenditures of the funds in stages. They call for clarification, they personally inspected the work to see that it was done. Without ECGRA's faith in PACA, we could never have grown to where we are now. They provided the much-needed funds that additional matching funds then helped. Their faith in us boosted our acceptance levels with other funding providers and I cannot stress that enough. ECGRA was the vanguard, they were the tip of the spear. They were the grassroots, bottom-up supporter of innumerable important county-wide growth, including PACA. And when other organizations saw that ECGRA supported us then those other organizations felt confident about supporting us. Without ECGRA, we wouldn't have gotten any support. They're strict. They're transparent and they are necessary. Without ECGRA, there would be no place for organizations like PACA to go. I urge the body to continue to support ECGRA and all of their work and I thank you for everything that you do. Thanks for hearing me.

Mr. Barney: I see that Kelly Stolar has arrived from the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. And Kelly, I informed everyone that they have five minutes.

Kelly Stolar: Okay, well, I won't need five minutes. I just came to support ECGRA and the board and everyone that makes these opportunities possible for the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. I'm the first lay person for the Neighborhood Art House. We are a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. And we actually have quite a few different ministries all along the 9th and 10th Street area east of Holland.

We've received two grants through ECGRA. I've been with the art house for almost seven years. And my first grant was a grant that was for safety and to have public visibility for the Art House, because there was no sign and our children walk from many different schools in the city, and there are supposed to be safe walkways. But there are different organizations that are popping up all around that have work releases and different things that aren't necessarily the most conducive for the students to walk. So, the city had proposed a safety grant or safety program that they were installing cameras that were along different corridors in the city, and it stopped at 10th and Holland, just west of the Art House. So, I ended up applying for our very first grant through ECGRA, to get cameras and signage. And we ended up later on installing a mural so that people knew that we were the Art House. So many people drive by and they're like, "Oh, I didn't know you were even there."

It used to be a Good Year Tire center, and then it was also part of the Art House and Emmaus Soup kitchen. And then the Art House got so big that the soup kitchen ended up moving behind the Art House on 11th Street across from Pfeiffer-Burleigh and then the sisters purchased the property back in 1994, and the Art House has been there since.

Two years ago, I took over as the executive director and started with a daytime programming where we have everything from open art studios, to homeschool programs, to our after-school programs, and Second Saturday programs. We went from having 320 students in the building between 3:15 and 5:15 to over 1,887 students last year come through – both adults and youth. So, we've really grown. Then Tom Maggio had spoken to me about having a building assessment. And I said, "Sure, but how much is this going to cost?" And he said, "No, we're doing this so that people that have community programs can see where they would need assistance before they would apply for the grant." We had no idea we were having leaks that were coming through our windows. It was coming into the art rooms where the kids were. All we could do was lay towels down and keep the water at bay. And then they came in, they did the assessment, and they said that we didn't need a roof repair we needed a roof replacement.

At that time Sister Mary Miller was alive and she was running the Emmaus soup kitchen, and they own our building. We had three quotes, and it was going to be anywhere from \$150,000 to \$180,000. And when she heard the cost, she was just devastated. Where was she going to find this money? Sister Mary passed a year ago and I promised her that I would do what I could do to find her the money. ECGRA was our saving grace because if we didn't have a roof there's no way that we could continue to have students let alone children and adults come into a building that wasn't safe and secure. So, I thank you all for that. And I'm sure Sister Mary is smiling down on us.

I'm very passionate about what I do, and I believe in the arts and everything that the arts provide. We are always on waitlist, so that is a testament to the programs that we offer the city and the students and the families. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: That concludes those who had signed up. Now is the time for public comment; anyone who has something – you have three minutes.

Jacob Marsh: Hi, my name is Jake Marsh. I run the Innovation Beehive Network site at Penn State Behrend and I help lead the Network as a whole. For anyone who's not familiar, we serve small businesses, entrepreneurs and industry in this region. We help them and we provide services such as business planning, financial advising, market research, branding and sustainability on the environmental side, as well as apparent at my site, engineering. We help you develop the product and take those steps forward that maybe you don't have the skill set for.

We have received funding from ECGRA over the years and I just wanted to come up here and express the thanks, but also to encourage you and say that this is meaningful work. It's meaningful economic development, and it really has an effect on people, individuals as well as the students that work in our sites to serve those individuals. What we do, what we work to do is to lower the barrier to success, to lower the cost of failure so we need to be able to provide opportunities for people to test their ideas so that when those ideas fail, they can have another chance to try again, and so that they can isolate those parts of their ideas that are really successful and take them forward. And I think that's what ECGRA has offered us over the years is an opportunity to find out what works really well and to amplify that. And part of that is this relationship that we have that we can come and we can speak to you. When we realize that something that we're trying to do isn't working, we can come to you and adjust course because you know this town really well. When you're working in economic development here, you're working with people that you know, you're providing funding for people who can meet with you and adjust course when that's needed. And we really appreciate that very much.

I see on a regular basis individual entrepreneurs that come to us and said, "We're even thankful for you having listened in the first place because no one else would." So, we're able to offer a service that really is unique, that there isn't another place to go for a lot of these people. And I think that you offer something very similar to projects like ours - projects that needed a chance to figure out what they were before they grew and got support from federal government, from big donors, from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

We're a strong collaboration and we put that collaboration very much at the center. We know it's difficult to collaborate right now. It is difficult for everyone to work together. So, we appreciate the work that you're doing, and we hope that you'll continue funding economic development work in Erie. If you would like any data from us, as a network or as a whole, if you want to talk about the way we do things, if you want tours, you can contact me anytime. For real. I will make time; we'll make space for you. We appreciate what you're doing. Thank you very much for your time.

Kathy Roach: Good morning, Executive Director Perry Wood, members of the ECGRA Board, and other distinguished members of the community. My name is Kathy Roach and I work at Gannon University as their Beehive manager, and I want to thank you for allowing us to speak today.

Since joining Gannon University and its Beehive in late 2019, we have generated over 300 early business insight products working even during COVID - not slowing down. We've never turned down a customer no matter their race, their religion, nor their economic status. The funding from ECGRA has served over 33% of existing businesses in Erie County with over 47% of our clients either having a business or creating one prior to being referred to our other Beehive Network locations, the Gannon University Small Business Development Center and other funding and support organizations in Erie and actually in Erie County.

The Gannon University Beehive built a model that started sustaining businesses at only a 43% level in 2020 and has surpassed 68% in 2023. This is a great statistic compared to the National Small Business sustaining rate of only 10% succeed after one year in business. We do this by creating a standard of care, a level of trust, personalized attention, and unparalleled handoffs so that the small business sector stays in business to pay local taxes and hire employees as an essential part of the Erie rebuilding story. The metrics in the last year by Gannon University's Beehive that reflect our three-year efforts on the negative impacts of certain populations are: technology businesses have improved this year from 26 to 42% of our customers, black customers supports improved from 22 to 33%, keeping in mind that Erie County's black population was 8% in 2020. Minority customer support improved from 28 to 36% in the last year, and the percentage of Gannon University Beehive small businesses who we serve whose owners are under 50 years old have increased from 71 to 77%.

So, in summary, we are driving technology thinking into our small business creation. We are reaching out and helping those who have been overlooked in the past. We are keeping businesses and people in the Erie and Erie County area, and we are gaining younger interest in starting and owning a business. Thank you so much for your time and attention.

Brian Fuller: Good morning. Thank you for the time this morning and thank you for everything that you guys do. I am Brian Fuller, the Director of Operations and Strategic Engagement at Mercyhurst University. I'm also the Director for the Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis Training and the Director for our portion of the Beehive Network, which is the Innovation Entente Lab. With me standing next to me is our student director of the Innovation Entente Lab as part of the Beehive Network, Mr. Riley Polkowski.

We're here today because we feel as a trusted part ECGRA has been one of our most trusted partners in the success of the Northwest PA Beehive Network, not only the network, but the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Erie region and small business development. So, we feel coming back to a lot to let you know the success and the impact that you've had on the small business

development and the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Erie is highly important. And we want to be able to give you some statistics.

Our job in the in the Beehive Network is to provide market analysis competitive intelligence data, we basically provide about what would cost \$100,000 worth of services for free to those that you've heard my colleagues talk about those communities that we're reaching that normally couldn't afford that, nor do they even know where to start to get those services. Thanks to the funding from ECGRA and the support from ECGRA, we've been able to open that door for them. So, I would like to share with you some of the stats that we've had since 2020 out of the Innovation Entente Lab in support of the Beehive Network.

Businesses serviced since February 2020: we've completed 211 total projects for businesses and servicing 211 different businesses. Out of that, 106 businesses have been established and are currently operating. We have nine that are currently still in development and should - hopefully by the end of the fiscal year - be fully established. We've had 14 returning clients come back to us for expanding those businesses and for further development of other intellectual property that they may have. We've developed 18 E-commerce or online services, so we've been able to help those that are moving online. We have a huge cyber security capability, data science capability that we bring from Mercyhurst to the Beehive Network. So, we're now opening that up and allowing clients to understand how to develop an E-commerce sales. Out of all of that, we estimate that we have either directly affected or sustained 500 jobs. So, we've either created or helped to sustain. Some of the notable businesses you may recognize in the community that we've had an effect on are Andora Bubble Tea, the Monticello Massage and Kinesiology, Your Sailing Adventure, the Barista Cat Cafe, Pineapple Eddie's Southern Bistro, Adventure Erie, ASCEND Erie, Always Together, and Donato's of Erie.

Through the Innovation Entente Lab, we've also been able to employ 63 students; that's about 21 students per year that are gaining applied experience in their field of study in competitive business intelligence. We've also been able to attend five major entrepreneurial events in the Erie region in supporting other organizations outside of ours. And one of our biggest steps this year, thanks to the funding from ECGRA is we've opened up and established an office at the Booker T. Washington Center. So now we are reaching the inner-city community in that demographic that we know need our support and help that may not necessarily be able to get to us.

In conclusion, I want to thank all of you for the influence that you've had on the success of the Northwest PA Beehive Innovation Network. I want to thank you for the success at each of our university's labs and the students that have gained that experience from that, but most importantly the effect you've had on the Erie region community and being able to grow our small business district and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Thank you.

Christopher Lantinen: My name is Christopher Lantinen and I'm here representing the Penn West Edinboro Beehive. I serve as Director of this Beehive site and considering our first-year grant report was due on February 16, I felt it appropriate to provide some highlights over this first half of the fiscal year and to briefly discuss how the program, funded numerous times by ECGRA, benefits the region and its residents. Before I begin, I'd obviously like to echo the thoughts of my Beehive colleagues – Jacob, Kathy, Brian and Riley and those not present today.

From July 1, 2023 to January 2024, our Beehive site has served 32 clients and completed 39 client projects; this already exceeds averages over the past three years of our operation. So, we're serving more, and I would say more effectively. We will likely serve another 20 clients before the end of the fiscal year. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage for a graphic designer is \$27. We track all student hours spent on projects and we can tell you that we have provided approximately \$40,000 of free work in this category to small businesses, entrepreneurs and nonprofits in the region. So that is the money that ECGRA has invested in the Beehive going directly back out to the community via services. In addition, we have provided approximately \$8,000 in

marketing assistance to similar entities. A large portion of the \$8,000 in marketing services went to search engine optimization services and optimizing businesses existing websites. I can tell you that these programs that we use that these businesses would not have access to otherwise are \$100 to \$200 a month to pay for these services. So that's SEO search engine optimization. Again, a thing they would not have access to without something like the Beehive existing in the community. These statistics do not count projects completed solely by faculty members or workshops and lectures that the center has provided.

Another highlight over this first year of our ECGRA funding has been our outreach events. The first took place in Union City in collaboration with Cindy at Union City. In October 2023, over 20 attendees came out to learn about Beehive services. The second just took place in early February. This was a visit to the monthly Girard-Lake City Chamber of Commerce. Once again over 20 attendees heard about us there. In fall 2023, our Beehive also held two business workshops in Corry at the Corry Higher Education building and in collaboration with Impact Corry. We had a workshop on July 31 attended by nine individuals, the second was attended by six and I believe that was in August 2023.

As always, we'd like to thank ECGRA for the support of the Beehive project and of the excellent creative students that benefit from this program. I would say that together we are providing a premier experiential learning opportunity for students all the while giving businesses free work that again they otherwise may not be able to afford; like 99% would not be able to afford. A true win-win. Thank you.

Patrick Miller: Good morning. I'm Patrick Miller. I'm the Director of Development at the Erie Regional Library Foundation and we handle the funding for the IDEA Lab, including the grants from ECGRA and want to say thank you to the board and everyone involved.

The Idea Lab at the Blasco Library is meant to be an incubator for not only arts and exploration of technology, but also serve as a pathway to entrepreneurial-ship for residents of Erie County. The Idea Lab at Blasco in the last year boasts over 1,900 registered individual users with over 1,000 individual check-ins in the last 12 months. The Idea Lab has hosted 200 programs and introduced over 1,800 attendees to the various services available. The funds provided from ECGRA have been able to help fund purchasing a second Glowforge, new printing machines, sewing machines, new laptops and an accessible entryway to the lab.

The seed money provided by ECGRA has opened up funding from other partners in the community and has let the Idea Lab more than double its services since it first opened. The number of individuals coming in - the librarians work with them and identify any possible business opportunities and work with connecting them with the other Beehives across the network. It's an exciting time and I just want to say thank you for all of your support in letting us provide this access to the Beehive Network.

Charlene Kerr: Good morning. My name is Charlene Kerr and I'm representing Downtown North East and all the nonprofit organizations that we help through ECGRA's funding. This morning I don't necessarily want to talk about all the statistics because I think you know how many small communities you help, how many businesses you help, the jobs you create, how many visitors you bring into the community. Rather, I'd like to emphasize two things.

One is your grant process. I've been in the Community Development / City Planning profession for over 40 years, and I find that your process is probably the most uncomplicated, the most thorough, the most accountable and the most a-political process that I have ever worked with in over 40 years. And the second thing is your staff. You have three people probably doing the work of what most government agencies would take 10 to 20 people to do. They're accessible, they answer their cell phones, they respond to our voicemails and to our emails. If they aren't there, they get back with us in

a day or two. They're responsive, they're creative. If we come to them and we say, "You know, we've got this problem." You know, lo and behold, they come up with an innovative solution, either technical or financial, to help us with that problem.

And I think the best thing is that they are a-political; the process is a-political. That's why ECGRA was formed. And I don't know of any government agency that could operate with so few people as effectively and efficiently as ECGRA does. They've helped us with so many projects and just so many activities, and I want to thank you and please keep ECGRA the way it is. Thank you.

Dave Sample: My name is David Sample and I was on the ECGRA board from 2008 to 2022. In the first two years of ECGRA, we had three executive directors, two of which were appointed by County. What we found out rather quickly was we could not get anything accomplished because everything would have to be done at the next meeting or the next meeting. So, we decided to hire Perry; bring him on.

The one thing that people fail to realize is that economic development is directly related to quality of life. And we have many situations whether it be Corry, North East, Fairview, Girard, Edinboro, that these different functions would not exist without ECGRA. Once Perry came on board, we dealt with nine Lead Assets, we were able to put that to bed - Summit Township and the contiguous communities to get a proportional share of the money. And they've received that and we've got a seamless way to deal with that.

I know for a fact that whether it be Corry or North East or Edinboro, all of these communities have prospered. And if you were to move this back into county government, it would be much to do about nothing. It's my opinion, that what they want to do is move these monies into the coffers of Erie County. You know, nobody outside of the city of Erie will ever have any quality-of-life issues dealt with again.

I applaud Perry, I applaud Tom and Tammi for their efforts. And people are right - this couldn't be done in regular government without six or seven or 10 people. The matters of how they do things are seamless. I can't tell you how many people have come up to me over the years and said, "You know, we wouldn't exist ECGRA." It's the Waterford Fair, Albion Fair. None of these things would be around were it not for the programs that ECGRA has developed. I applaud your efforts and I really hope that the board sees its way fit to continue on because it's been very successful. Thank you.

Jessie Collura: Good morning. My name is Jessie Collura. I'm the Executive Director for the Young Artists Debut Orchestra, also known as YADO. The YADO is a nonprofit organization which embraces the great idea of inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. The YADO strives to transform lives by providing the highest level of music education and public performance opportunities for students ages six through 18 by making programs accessible to disadvantaged students through financial assistance and outreach.

This morning, the YADO organization would like to present to you the reasons why we believe it is vital that ECGRA continue in support of an equal opportunity, instrumental music instruction for children in our community. I would like to open our presentation with one brief video; we actually had two and one was a testimonial from the first female pilot to fly the fastest jet in the entire world when she came to our program, and she studied violin. But we're now going to show the Prelude Strings recital at the Senior Living Center.

Video of the Young Artists Debut Orchestra is played. It may be found [here](#).

Jessie Collura: Now I'd like us to consider the Erie school district's 2023 PSSA reports published in GoErie November 2023. The reports indicated that English scores were 32% below basic level, and the math scores were 62.6% below basic level. I'm sure that you will agree that these scores are

unacceptable for the children in our community and should be significantly higher. However, there is a rapid solution to raising the low math and reading scores. I would like to share with you the following results from a recent study published in the Journal of Neuroscience. The Harmony Project, a Community Music Program in Los Angeles for low income kids, conducted a study which showed direct evidence that playing a stringed instrument and music training has a biological effect on the child's nervous system. These studies indicated that students studying music scored higher on reading tests and showed larger improvements in their brain.

Dr. Wood: I'm sorry, Ms. Collura. We have a limited time. But if you'd like to enter your comments on record with us, that would be great.

Jessie Collura: We thank you so much for the support from ECGRA and we ask for your continued support. Thank you.

Patrick Gehrlein: Good morning. My name is Patrick Gehrlein. I represent North East Borough. Today I want to come to you and thank you, as a board, for having vision, for being steadfast in your mission, and for allowing your staff to be collaborative. That's almost a strange word when you're talking about a community organization and community development - especially in government. We're too often accustomed to the phrase OPM, which is other people's money, and it's very easy to spend other people's money. You are stewards of those dollars that come in through gaming revenue, and you spend them in a very unique way. You touch a lot of communities, and you collaborate with a lot of communities, whether you know that or not.

Most everybody will stand up and say, "Thank you for your money." But it's not the money that makes the difference. It's the collaboration, it's challenging those concepts, and it's allowing these communities to function and carry on the mission. You have a group of people in this room who will carry out any mission, they'll walk through fire for Erie and Erie County and the people they serve. What you're doing to facilitate that is immeasurable. And I want you to know that there are always trials, there are always tribulations. We are in this together.

And whether it's North East, whether it's Union City, you go across Erie County, ECGRA has touched all of those communities. And they do it by saying, "How can we help?" If you look at any groups that are forming in the area, whether it's organized by Erie Insurance, whether it's organized by Gannon, whether it's organized by other groups, whether it's organized by the County, ECGRA is at the table. The reason you're at the table is because you are efficient, you challenge the norms of which we expect in government and solutions, which is, "We're going to work really hard to meet a couple of times and then drop the ball." I've sat there; I've watched this happen in Erie and it was my greatest frustration to see talented folks not given the opportunity to succeed.

This community deserves ECGRA. We are grateful for everything that you do. We wish that you have the steadfast courage to continue doing it and to realize that the impact you make is not in the dollars you spend, but it is in the lives that you touch in all of the communities around you. Continue to do that. Continue to be the visionaries that we need. I was asked one time what is a leader? We are the leaders we've been waiting for. You are the leaders we've been waiting for. So please continue your good work. Thank you so much for being so gracious to allow us to come into your room and to explain our projects, to have you hear our vision, to have you hear our passion and to carry that forward in what we do every day. Thank you so much for your time.

Shawn McLaughlin: My name is Shawn McLaughlin. I run with Mill Village Volunteer Fire Department. I've been there for 36 plus years now and I'm also on Mill Village Borough Council. What I'm here for today is I don't know if you folks are aware of the EMS / fire issue which is going on in Millcreek right now. They're trying to make that one fire department. But a lot of our money comes from fundraising,

which takes more time out of a volunteer's life. Right now, the fire department I belong to, the \$155,000 that we usually save a year to buy equipment is now going for paid staffing, which is a combination between us, the borough, and the township. It's the municipality's responsibility to provide those services to the community. Right now, we just raised taxes in Mill Village Borough; I think LeBoeuf Township is raising taxes.

Way back when this casino was coming to Erie County, if my memory serves me correctly, it was sold to us as a property tax relief. I haven't seen any property tax relief. I was only asked to speak a couple days ago so I didn't have a whole lot of time to prepare, but a couple statistics from the money you gave away the other day. The city has a population of roughly 95,000; the county has a population of 176,000. The city got \$1.324 million, and the county got \$325,000. Per person, that's \$14 per person in the City of Erie and \$1.85 per person to the county and I don't feel that's fair. That's what happens a lot of time with all the county funds, not just the gaming funds.

And I am going to be going to County Council meetings as well from here on out as much as I can. We need to take some of this money and make it available for the fire departments. I'm trying to get a committee together to - I don't know how to do it and how to do it legally - but basically what Millcreek is doing, but make it a county provided service such as they do. I know they do it in North Carolina, South Carolina and a lot of the southern states they do; it's all county provided. Plus, a lot of their police officers are cross trained as fire people too so if they get a fire, you know they might have two people on the truck, but they got three police officers on, well, then they have a crew. So, it has to do with a lot of cross training and so far we've had a couple of meetings in South County and anytime I bring up cross training to any of the townships, they don't want to hear it. They say that that's not going to work. So, I'd just like you to take consideration for that. Thank you.

Jay Breneman: Good morning. Jay Breneman, former County Council member representing District Four; served as Chairman of County Council, Chairman of the Personnel Finance Committees, Election Board a couple times. And during my four years, I was the Council liaison to every single economic development entity that we had a liaison for. I didn't know much about ECGRA when I became the liaison, but I can tell you I learned real quick that they had their stuff together and that they were innovative. But also, to the point that we've seen in this room, they represent every single corner neighborhood in this community. You see more people, just everyday people, that are working on projects to better their community. It's mind blowing the number of everyday people you see involved in these projects are helping innovate in their own community.

You know, we've been through a battle like this before. When there's a pot of money politicians come in. They want it, some state legislators want it, some county officials want it; they never present any new arguments. The same old arguments that have been dealt with and proven wrong before. And the fact that it comes from a county government that has become more opaque, and even when last time it was proven that the county's grant making process was not only ineffective, it was very fly-by-the-seat of your pants; millions and tens of millions of dollars going without review at all, they went on knowing this money and rubber stamping it year after year. When that happened, we reached out to ECGRA and said, "What can we do? What processes can we follow?" Now, does the county still follow that? Did they ever enact that? I don't know; I left office at that point.

But, you know to this point is that it took me two months to get a right-to-know request, a simple one, from the County Executive's office. The number of reporting and oversight of the County Economic Development Department, which isn't even in the Administrative Code, is virtually unknown. The results? You publish your results, you put everything online so when somebody asks for something, you publish it, you tell people, you go above and beyond every single organization when they're dealt with aspersions.

Some people say, "Where there's smoke, there's fire." There's a dumpster fire but it's not in here. And a lot of what you see is hot air. And I would say that you should get past the abuse, get past the bullying. And Brenton Davis is a child abuser, and you should not trust a word that comes from his mouth. Thank you.

Peter Burton: Thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Peter Burton, President of Burton Funeral Homes, but more importantly, I'm the Mayor of Girard Borough. I want to thank ECGRA as well, following everybody's sentiments. With ECGRA money, we've been able to come up with a master plan for our small community. We also were able to become a member or recognized on the National Registry of PA Historical Places. We wouldn't have been able to do any of this without ECGRA money. We've received about \$450,000 since 2018. We've done about \$1,300,000 in repairs and improvements with that \$450,000. We were recognized last year from Preservation Erie 2023 for our education advocacy on some of the great things that we've done in downtown Girard. So, for a small community of 1,500 homes and 3,000 residents, I went door to door to many of these homes for the ECGRA Renaissance grant and Mission Main Street. Many of the people, if we weren't matching their funds, these projects would have never even happened. When you look on the Bob Ferrando Ford cam, downtown Girard looks like a pretty cool place.

Brian Gregor: Good morning, Board. This is my first time here. My name is Brian Gregor, representing Union Township, Union City, Pennsylvania. I'd like to say thank you to Mr. Wood, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Bayle for coming out. We have recently acquired the TETRA building and that's what I'm speaking about today. We received an email from Tracy Michali, is that right? I'm sorry, Tammi. We presumed that we were receiving our grant. I know you spoke with Mr. Earl Brown. The thing about townships is that we're voted on. We get one month of beating back. So, we take time out of our day to do township news. As you can see, I'm underdressed from all the VIPs here. I'm a county guy.

So, I guess our grant is in the queue. Can you give us some kind of time correlation you think that money would come about? The reason I ask is that the TETRA building has a lot of future potential. The county people take care of their own. We've always taken care of our own. To hit Mr. McLaughlin said, dollar for dollar, ECGRA's about Erie Community, equality. The county's not getting what they deserve. There are no shelters in Union City except for churches. So, we're going to be the first with a warming center with TETRA. If God forbid there is a fire and a family is misplaced, there's enough rooms in the TETRA building that we could take a family there and put them up for three four days until they get back on their feet again and figure out where they're going to go.

The quality of life we have in the county, I don't think that people in here understand. You folks can go out your back door on the deck, have a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning. You don't breathe dust. We chose to live in the county; we chose to live on dirt roads. But the time has come where we need to start looking at paving the roads. You guys have stipulations on what the money can be used for. We need a better quality of life. I'd love to go out on my back deck and just sit and have a cup of coffee in the morning, open my windows up and have the fresh country air come through the windows. That doesn't happen. The townships, our hands are tied with salt brine because of the DEP. The fight is that they charge us so much money to brine roads. We get \$5,000 a year in a budget to brine roads. How long does it last? Last summer, it was dry. We actually cut our brine with water to do all the roads. So please consider the county people a bit more. I would really appreciate it. Just listening today was all about Erie, Erie, Erie, Erie. Just from listening today. I know you guys are sending funds to the county, but we need some help with our roads. It'd be great. We chose to live there. Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

Councilman Charlie Bayle: Good morning, Dr. Wood. Good morning, Board. Charlie Bayle, I'm the County Councilman for District Six. I'm also a resident of Washington Township, so I'm wearing both of those hats today. I'll try and be brief because I know what it's like to sit up there and have rocks thrown at your head; I go through that on a consistent basis so I appreciate that.

Obviously, there's been a lot of talk about this in the past few weeks and I think that we need to clear up some of those things. I don't think anybody disagrees that gaming money is beneficial and has been beneficial to the community. I don't think you'll find a person or very few in this entire county that would disagree with that; myself included. I think it's done some great things. I think the question becomes operation and administration of those funds. And I think that there are some questions to be asked there, and that it's appropriate for someone like myself who is a member of Council and oversight, or as it was put in an email yesterday, a financial partner of ECGRA.

So, I find it a little concerning in the interest of I heard strict and transparency and all these things. I put in a request. I started to look, and they do put stuff up on the site, and I started to go through it and it was just like going over my own bills at home, I started to look at credit card statements and it's and ECGRA credit card so it's county dollars. And I started to see some things that just raised a question. I asked for detailed invoices of all the Amazon purchases that have occurred over the years. I didn't think it was a difficult task, but it was treated as a right-to-know request. I'm not sure why it's a right-to-know request when as a member of Council I serve as a part of an entity that oversees another entity. But I want to see there are several scenarios here. So, the legality of the request that I made, the possible fees that would be assumed in order to provide this request, not that there were fees, but the possibility. It creates a perception of possible impropriety. There are several scenarios, you know. We don't want there to be any perception of impropriety with anything we do. Council has been beat up for months about that, so why would I as a Council member expect anything less from an entity that exists under our watch? So, you know, there's this scenario that possible impropriety or whatever which I'm not accusing or saying that's a scenario, that it's not legally possible to provide me with that information; that's concerning. Or that you feel that you don't have to provide me with that information, that's also a concern.

So again, it's not a question of does the gaming money do good things out in the county? It does. And in the city for the entire county. It's a matter of the processes and transparency. Frankly, that's transparency. I mean, several people here know, maybe not everybody, but my wife is in year three of a diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's. And so, we have an Amazon account and I asked her could she please pull up the records of Amazon so I can see our purchases? It took her two minutes 30 seconds to pull up since 2007 what we spent on Amazon. I don't think it's a ridiculous request, and you know, I would really like to see that information.

A couple other things I'd like to clear up. I heard about the Beehive and it's amazing; it's an amazing project. But I think what people need to know is that those are ARPA dollars that were given - \$750,000 and correct me if I'm wrong, but given by Council to ECGRA to administer. So it's great, but we tried to give it directly to the Beehive. We didn't think that it needed to go through an entity and have some of that money stripped away for operating expenses. So, it is a worthwhile project, great project; a lot of these are. But I think there's some ways that we can tighten it up and we can be more efficient, effective, and transparent for the taxpayers. Thank you.

Rock Copeland: Hi, I'm Rock Copeland. I'm also on County Council with the Third District. I didn't really want to speak this morning. I don't much care to talk to people at this hour. But I felt that it was really important for me to stand up. I don't believe that this organization should require a defense. The body of work is before you; you have lots of testimony to the good work that you do in the community.

What I've observed since becoming a County Council member kind of surprised me. I viewed this as a grant making organization that I thought it's a pile of money and we get to hand out checks to

the community. And it's been pretty interesting because I've learned a lot. I said in the recent County Council meeting, I was surprised to find that you guys are the glue that binds together a lot of these organizations; it doesn't just write a check but builds community, builds partnerships between organizations to work together. And I think when you have some overhead, that's what you're paying for. I think that that's really important. I don't speak for all of County Council, I'm just one member, but I'm just here to say that I support you. I'm glad to have had Angie Amatangelo as my appointment; it's the most consequential thing I'll have done, for sure. I just want you to know that you have my support, to act as an authority with your own authority to make your own decisions without interference from outside parties. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Are there any other public comments? We do have some individuals on Zoom.

Councilman Andre Horton: Mr. Chair, I won't take up much of your time. I just want to go on record saying thank you from the entire community, all of Erie County, for the work that you've done. And I just stand here this morning, I want to pledge my support for your continued work and your continued success. I echo Councilman Copeland's comments, that you're an autonomous authority. You have done wonders for this whole community, not just in terms of economic development as you serve as an arm of county government, but you enrich the lives of communities of all ethnicities, across all socio-economic strata, regardless of zip code, and for that you should be commended. And I look forward to working with you for years to come. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Councilman Horton. Are there any other individuals on zoom?

Ms. Michali: We're opening it up to those on Zoom. Did anybody want to speak?

## PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cleaver: Just for the record, we're reviewing the 2024 budget. I've been sitting down with Perry in reference to income and expenses and that'll be presented at year end. I believe our new budget starts April 1. So, we're in the process of that.

As far as the Treasurer's Report there, all items are underspent but two and they're well within reason why they're overspent. So, everything is fine as far as I'm concerned. If there are any questions, hopefully we can answer them and if not, that's the end of the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Barney: Are there any questions of the Treasurer?

Dr. Wood: Can I just make a few comments?

Mr. Barney: Yes.

Dr. Wood: This is the February Board meeting. At the February Board meeting, we always present a draft budget to the Board. You have a copy of that in your packet. This gives you an opportunity to take it home, take a look at it, contact the Board, ask any questions you may have of your fellow Board members and staff. Where are these numbers coming from? Why did they get there? This is just a draft; the first one. In an ideal scenario, we'll review it again at the March Board meeting and at that time, take action to put it in place so that on April 1, we start the new fiscal year.

I also want to take a minute, since we have so many visitors here from the public, to talk about the Treasurer's Report and how we do financial transparency here at ECGRA. So, this is the Treasurer's packet; it's available online for anyone to take a look at. The first report is the Profit and Loss Statement which is a summary of all income and expenses. So, it's really a summary of the entire Treasurer's Report that's available. The next document is a Balance Sheet. The Balance Sheet has all of the financial assets of ECGRA on it, including the starting position of the year, where our cash position was. The next is Budget versus Actual. The Board can go through every month and see that here are all of the various items in the budget and where we're at as far as spending goes down. So just a reminder, February and March are the last two months of our fiscal year; we have an April 1 start time. So, that would be why we're reaching the conclusion of those areas. And that's the operations budget by the way, which is what the scrutiny is about - the operations, not the grantmaking.

Next is the grantmaking. So, the Schedule of Grant Reserve tells you on a quarterly basis how gaming revenue comes in, and then it shows how the awards were made in the fiscal year. It shows you who got the awards, for what amount, what the original amount was, and then how much they've drawn down on those funds. So the Board can look at any point in time and see where we're at with implementing the grant making process which they have approved. There isn't a grant that goes through at ECGRA that this Board of Directors doesn't vote on and approve. And when it does, it goes into the Schedule of Grant Reserve. Next in the Treasurer's Report is a list of, well it's the Check Register, but really, we're wiring. This is the Check Register, a standard QuickBooks report. This is where all the money went to as far as wiring goes. So, it's there by name and by category and amount.

Next, is the Visa bill. This is backup for whatever office supplies have been purchased. That's really pretty much all that gets purchased with this Visa. There's one Visa and therefore there's one Visa statement at ECGRA. We put it in the Treasurer's Report; it's right here. And then we label what category it was charged to in the budget right here on the side. Some folks have said, "Well, what about the Amazon account?" That's where we get our office supplies from. Well, we're going to, moving forward, we'll put the Amazon account on every single one of these as well. That's going to show the office supplies by detail. So, on the Visa it'll just say an amount from Amazon and the office supplies, we'll put the actual office supplies that are being purchased - the binders, the books, the markers, the pens., etc.

Thanks for being here today. I just wanted to take a moment and educate you on that. It's all available on our website.

Ms. Hess: Perry, can I ask a clarifying question? So, this isn't something new, this Treasurer's Report, correct? This is how you have done things for the last . .

Dr. Wood: . . . decade?

Ms. Hess: Thank you.

Mr. Cleaver: We've added things over the years as we've had requests,

Dr. Wood: We have added things, but this has pretty much been the standard.

Ms. Hess: I mean, I've seen that labeling since I've been on ECGRA for the last four or five years so this isn't something new.

There is no further discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Winschel makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

There was no Strategic Planning meeting held.

c. Update from County Council

Chairman Terry Scutella: Good morning, Board and guests. It's my first meeting. My appointee is Mr. Winschel. When I first got on County Council a week after I was sworn in, I received several phone calls telling me that I had a pick for the gaming Board. I didn't know and it caught me by surprise. So I looked up the different Board members and I saw that they lacked a good financial man and I called Mr. Winschel because I had worked with him on the Millcreek School Board. I knew his good reputation in the financial world and I thought he would be a good guy. And when we talked, I said one thing. "When I appoint you to a Board, or anybody I tell this, I don't want you to come back to me asking me how they should vote. That's why you got on this Board. If you have to come back to a Council member that appointed you on how they want you to vote, you don't belong on it anymore. And I would never get in their way of that.

First of all, we got so many Council people here that we missed one. Ellen Shauerman, West County, she's here this morning too. What Charlie spoke of, and I know the County Executive had an issue with the two. If somebody on County Council wants something from your finances or whatever, isn't it easier if it just takes a letter from our office, signed by me to say we would like to see this? Can you just email it to us and our clerk would get it out to all seven of us. Because it'd be ridiculous to have four or five Council people calling you up to say, "We need this," and you're gonna have to do it four or five times. It's an easy process. I don't see why it's so difficult. Charlie's not doing it for punitive reasons; I don't think anybody is. But we would like to know.

On the Authority, there's no way I would want the Authority gone and this money in the County for any County Executive, I'm not speaking to Mr. Davis, any County Executive or any Council person. Because I was at the program Tuesday morning with the 19 people getting the grants. If we had it in the courthouse with the County Executive and Council people, maybe all 19 of those people that needed that money, six of them I think were for roofs because their roofs were leaking. We tend to disagree on that, and I think that some of those people wouldn't have received money that they needed. And I would support this Authority and keep it out of the courthouse. Don't listen to our politics; we straighten that out ourselves. We just hope that you continue to do the good job and help the people that need the help. Thank you.

d. Update from County Executive's Office

Mr. Barney: In lieu of Doug Smith, we will hear from the County Executive.

County Executive Davis: First off, I appreciate the attendance today. You know, I think this is the first time it's good to draw attention to issues when it comes to public funding. I think the message in the media has gotten far lost. In the initial conversation when I came here several months ago, sat down in a simple chair and expressed the same concerns that administrations before me have. When I've got articles clear back to 2011, 2012, so forth and so on about exorbitant costs of operation, an Executive Director's salary that's on pace to increase over \$40,000 in the last four years. That pay increase alone that's in this contract is nearly the same as the average working wage of a person in Erie County. And there's people that live off of far less. There's concerns and I'll echo much what Councilman Bayle did, who does ECGRA answer to? We hear the words Authority, independence; you talk about . . . there's a previous Councilman who brought up the Administrative Code. ECGRA's in the Administrative Code, much like all the other 44 Boards, Authorities, and Commissions in Erie County that Council has appointments on, some that I have appointments on. Well, under the Home Rule Charter it's part of my job as part of the Executive's job to supervise directly or indirectly. That makes me as the chief executive holding this office accountable for these funds. So, when we ask for information, there's just an email that I sent even just yesterday, much to Councilman Bayle's frustration, I had the same thing. I cc: every single one of you these communications, so there's no miscommunication. All the members of Council, the solicitors you know, there's just certain things and I appreciate the actions taken this morning to put the Amazon accounts on there due to this look under the hood. The initial look, we found ways that we can be more transparent. That's a good thing. There's no challenge to any of the work being done. I think Councilman Bayle touched on it. Much of these folks they came through here and spoke about the Beehive. That was money that was in my first budget as a County Executive, three quarters of a million dollars of American Rescue Plan money from the county that was allocated to ECGRA to administer. That was not gaming revenue that supported that. To me, that's recognizing the mechanism. It lightens the load for county government. That's the purpose of these Boards, Authorities and Commissions - to get a broader perspective, to get different participation. Anybody previous Council folks, and there's two of you that were on Council when this was created. We're the only county in Pennsylvania that operates a gaming revenue authority in this manner. My point is, is there's other models that we need to be looking at. Is there a different model that we should be following? Is there a better model? Is there a different way of operating? We can't consistently do the same things and fall short like our county has time and time again. That's not to say that the work isn't good. It's not to say that we don't support the Beehive. I mean, I see all of our partners, Edinboro, Mercyhurst, Gannon, and Penn State who oversee the substantial investment of American Rescue Plan money. We're the largest partner in most of those projects and that's something that even Terry and I, we don't agree on everything, but these are projects that we agree on.

This message was lost. It became politicized when I came in here and said. "How can we reduce our overhead? Are we doing this most effectively?" And then looking through these statements, and I can tell you I've only got part of it. I sent an email two weeks ago, talking about the missing check registers, the missing credit card statements. Mind you, these were things in 2017 under the most recent alignment with state government, that these were supposed to already be online to do this look under the hood yet again. We're in further compliance with that gaming revenue law. We have to do better. And that has been my charge and my challenge to each of you from the very beginning. It puzzles me why anyone would be

opposed to transparency, to accountability, even members of Council that speak the very same words even last night or Tuesday night in council chambers. There's nothing to hide when it comes to taxpayer money, even including the actions of all of my folks and all of my teams. But here's a different example. One, while I was asking this why some like paint the picture that this is punitive, that this is singling out ECGRA, that we want your money, well under law, as a County Executive, I can't get your money. Any of it. The purse strings are controlled by Council. And those of you that serve that know this. This is the way the media likes to spin it because it sells newspapers. The state legislators they don't want it because they don't have a mechanism to put it back in their state budget. By law it has to go to the counties. This is very specific gaming revenue law. When you get seven or six legislators and myself included, a bipartisan effort that says, "Hey, listen, let's pause. Let's make sure that everything we're doing is above board. That is lawful. It's legal, and that it's ethical." And then they get push back. And when you talk about being autonomous, we're an Authority. Well, much to Councilman Bayle's point, who is your oversight? Who does this board answer to? These are taxpayer dollars. We voted on it in 2008. It was on the ballot referendum, much to one of the township folks said this morning, to lower taxes. My whole point is maybe we need to look at the way we're allocating this money. I think the fireman said, "Look at where this last \$1.6 went." \$1.3 million went to city organizations; \$300,000 went out into the county. That's vastly disproportionate and this has happened year after year after year after year. I mean, you look at it historically. The data and the math doesn't lie. These are funds, and I mean the county government, and I think one of the previous Council members even touched on this, this is historically how we've done this. County government has not always gotten this right. Even as a private citizen before I ran, I recognized that we can and we must do better. It's having these difficult conversations. This is why the county has a seat on the board. This is why the County Executive has direct or indirect influence over every Board, Authority, and Commission under the Home Rule Charter under which our government was formed in 1978. Oversight is critical. So, when I can sit here and I can read through all the different things, we can talk about how the overhead has skyrocketed when absolutely nothing . . . I mean, I even said this in the previous meeting when there wasn't this participation from the public, Executive Dahlkemper and I, we're about as different politically as oil and water. But even now, having sat down with lunch after the fact and her and I, there's things that we do agree on. And the one thing is in some of these articles where she questions ECGRA spending, she questions the cost of ECGRA's overhead, where the funds are allocated. These questions have gone on since 2011, even by Council members. I think, I think Whitey and Carol were on Council around that time. This has historically come into question over and over and over again. And there's been this political fanfare to defend the work, the work being done. Well, to Councilman Bayle's point, nobody's questioning the work. We're questioning why is there resistance to transparency? We're questioning why is there resistance to accountability? Why does the County Executive who by law oversees this authority directly or indirectly and those are verbatim words taken from our Home Rule Charter, the government which created ECGRA, which oversees ECGRA. If Councilman Bayle requested information and can't get it, to me, that's a problem. When he couldn't get it, he comes to me under line and title which I cited to each one of you two weeks ago, to which I've yet to receive a response, to which a week later I sent another email. And I think the initial response I got was a right-to-know; a 30 day right-to-know. Well I don't come to you as a member of the public. I come to you as your direct governmental oversight duly elected by the people of Erie County to protect their taxpayer funds. But then this media frenzy that created caught the interest of state elected officials, who we all met and discussed this and said, "Maybe we do need to give this a look under the hood." What we're saying is are we inside the left and right limits of gaming revenue law? And

just by a show of hands, I'm curious how many members of this Board have read the gaming revenue law? A couple. So to me, it's complex. It's very complex. There's nothing wrong with taking a look under the hood to making sure that we're compliant. We do it in government every day. And to my point, is ECGRA being singled out by the County Executive? Some call it bullying. I call it accountability. Some people resort to personal attacks. With me it just tells me maybe you're getting close to something folks don't want found out. There are some things to Charlie Bayle's point that when you look through these credit card statements, it's alarming. Absolutely alarming. To me, and that's that's that's a bullet that's left the gun that you can never call back because this is stuff that's documented. It's in bank statements. So, when we see things that are missing check registers, credit card statements, resistance to Amazon. So, during this time process, this also gave us the opportunity in county government one - not only to examine all the credit cards that all county employees have, reiterate our training to make sure that all of our employees are utilizing this in appropriate manner. Two - about a week ago, I also requested the same thing from Tina Mengine at the Redevelopment Authority, the very same things that I asked of ECGRA. But you don't see that on the news. Why? Because in about three hours they had every detail of every loan they've given, all their credit card statements, all their check ledgers, and I think maybe 10 Amazon purchases historically that they had. Within three hours, I had everything. It was a simple email sent to their director, I didn't even get a right to know request. And if you want to talk about politics, look at the history that I had initially with the RDA because that was all about accountability too and now we're functioning effectively, and we're on the same page. We've realigned resources. And we're better serving the people of Erie County as a result. We build those bridges. There's going to be some knockdown drag outs, there's going to be some disagreements. I don't detest any of the work being done as we pointed out, we're some of the biggest partners for much of everything that was talked about today. The challenge is, is how can we do better? Yes, we've asked for this auditor general investigation for a forensic audit. I don't think there's anything wrong with that. If the work for ECGRA truly is above board is many claim it is, we have nothing to worry about. What if we can get anything much like the Comptroller's report that looks at every action of county government? And every time that Dr. Foust brings his controller report over for the last two years, I'm anxious to get it. Because I want to find out. Like one - what did we miss? And two - what can I fix? And how can we make it better? We don't have that abrasive relationship. We're check and balance of county government. We have a great relationship and the reports reflect such. But what we've identified here is that ECGRA doesn't seem to have or think it has any direct oversight. When duly elected officials from your creating body, get a response to a request for information for right-to-know, and then when their own appointed Board members asked for the same, you're talking Board members on this very body don't get the answers that they're asking for when it comes to Amazon purchases or credit card statements. These are major issues. Nobody questions the projects, or the efficacy, or the value of any work that's been done. What we're saying is we need to do better. So, I don't have anything further to say other than I expect the full participation in this auditor general process moving forward. And hopefully we don't have any delay. I mean, when can we expect those Amazon? I mean, because literally to Charlie's point, I did it myself. It took me less than two minutes to do my own personal stuff. When can we expect those requests that we sent in in the last two weeks? So, you don't have an answer?

Dr. Wood: Within 30 days of the request.

Mr. Davis: Within 30 of the request.

Dr. Wood: Correct.

Mr. Davis: So, there I think that's the appropriate closing. You see now the resistance that we're getting from county government. A very simple request at a public meeting, even recorded, we're being denied information that is public. Not only as a member of the public, but as your direct oversight. So, it leads me to question this board and this executive director stands to vote on an issue today, that can move this contract three years into the future, with a \$40,000 pay raise over the last four years, a six-month severance package, on top of medical benefits and a whole slew of other things. That's alarming. So, I would encourage this board one final time to heed the words of advice and the requests from seven duly elected members of Erie County, both from the State Senate and State Legislators that sit on the Gaming Revenue Oversight Committee; your actions today will be very telling as to whether ECGRA truly is for the taxpayers and a community partner, or whether ECGRA is an Authority that simply go on the road and believe that it has no oversight and doesn't need to heed the words of the duly elected officials of Erie County. To me that's dangerous. And that's precisely why the seven of us signed this letter asking for an independent investigation of this, free from local politics, free from local relationships. So, I'll ask one final time. When can you receive those Amazon receipts?

Dr. Wood: Within 30 days of the request.

Mr. Davis: Roger that. Thank you for your time.

Dr. Wood: Tim, you're our lawyer – you've been our lawyer for 12 years now. Are we in compliance with the Pennsylvania Gaming Law?

Mr. Wachter: Yes.

Dr. Wood: Thank you.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: To the Board, coming up next month, we'll have a Mission Main Street grant review. In the next few weeks, Tammi will reach out for your availability. Then we'll round out the month with accepting Special Events grants. And if we time it correctly, I think we can do a single grant review to cover both of those. We also saw the second round of presentations for the Infinite Erie Neighborhood Revitalization portfolio. So, we'll be talking about those as well. I'm really excited to move forward with our collaboration with Erie Community Foundation; Erie Insurance has gotten involved with us as well, talking about funding for those projects.

To my Board, you'll find the responses to media reports and correspondence over the past month in your packets, including Solicitor Wachter's responses suggesting that there are conflicts of interest and requests for additional audit. As you know, over the years ECGRA has been the target of political attacks and inquiries. It's not surprising. In fact, the architects of ECGRA predicted that this would happen and created a public authority in anticipation of it. That was before my time, but I'm thankful to them for having the foresight to protect this valuable resource for the express purpose of revitalizing Erie County. Here we are 15 years later, and that's still what's going on. The funds have never been used to fill a budget gap, and it's never been distributed outside of the public eye. Most recently, one of the architects of the law, former State Senator Jane Earll, said that "The thinking behind ECGRA was to have it be an independent Board, although appointed by County Council,

would be the best way to ensure that local share gaming revenue was distributed fairly across the county and not be subject to political whims.” Our good work and the latest political attacks are evidence that she was right on both fronts. It has been gratifying to hear from so many of our grant recipients during this latest round of media attention, and it's not surprising. The fact is, our mission is clear, our programs are intentional, they're well designed to be transparent and accessible to applicants, and above all to avoid any political influence. I'm proud of the work but mostly I'm proud of these organizations, municipalities and businesses that have taken the time to understand the process and engage fully with our team to optimize the experience that we're able to share.

As a grant making agency with the highest level of scrutiny, we meticulously maintain transparency, accountability, and fairness in our process even when a perceived conflict is a topic of discussion at public meetings. Conflicts, or perceived conflicts, are all available on our website. They demonstrate the diligence and deliberation we take in keeping ECGRA above reproach. Because of the extensive scrutiny we've always operated under, always operated under, and per legislation, we post our expenses each month on the website. You can find programs, financial reports, and a public record of all money moving through ECGRA for the state to support our mission. If you explore you might find a month with no statement in our records - it was referenced here by the County Executive today - it's because there wasn't one. Not every month produces a statement. Our records are complete and available in their entirety on our website under the Financial Disclosure page.

There is a narrative underway that we have been hiding Visa statements and spending too much money on coffee. I worry that lately I might need something stronger than a cup of coffee to get through some of these meetings. But needless to say, yes, we are drinking coffee, and we even serve food at our meetings. In fact, it's part of our culture. It's important to note that we build this into our operating budget and none of these expenses fall outside of that budget. But it's more important to understand that we're doing it to bring folks together. It was heartfelt to hear so many ECGRA grant recipients Tuesday night at the county council meeting that ECGRA helped generate and share ideas. That's by design. Economic development happens when communities work together. Let me say that again, economic development happens when we work together. We drink coffee together, we break bread together, and we learn together.

Part of that learning is my job. You'll see that we buy a lot of books here at ECGRA and we feed people; and I'm not talking about our grants to the Second Harvest Food Bank when I say that. We feed the Board for grant reviews, we feed the organizational leaders that show to focus groups, committee meetings to learn how to access the grants, we feed our grantees at press conferences to help them celebrate their successes and keep them talking so that they share their challenges and seek our shared experiences on how to tackle tough decisions with very few resources. We feed elected officials we meet with over lunch. In 2015, we fed the entire Gaming Oversight Committee for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania multiple times while we were lobbying them to fix local share gaming legislation. We didn't buy any alcohol – I'll go on record - but we did have a nice reception at the Sheraton and the Knox Law Firm sponsored the bar. Thanks Tim. Our community benefited from that type of event.

We read a lot of books, books that talk about a long American tradition of excellence and contain deeply important ideas for economic and community development practitioners, like the ECGRA staff are. They are books about the revitalization of mid-size cities like this one: Revitalizing American Cities by the University of Pennsylvania. You'll also find that we have some academically bloated books like this one on case study research. We do case study research, and this book in particular was purchased during the period when I was working on my doctorate at Pitt and the Board agreed to pay for it. ECGRA paid for one year of tuition and books before I chose to withdraw from reimbursements because of the political backlash. It was distracting us from our mission. I'm proud that I completed my coursework and earned that degree. I know that what I learned is helping our community today.

Next, I want to take a minute to talk to the Board about impact investing. It's a national model that ECGRA has been praised for implementing here in Erie County. In addition to grants, we're building a portfolio of Notes. These loans or Notes are found on our Balance Sheet - the total is about \$7.7 million. That money is owed back to ECGRA and it is busy working in our community right now.

Those Notes, or loans, sit on our Balance Sheet until it's paid back and therefore makes it look like we have a lot of cash on hand when in fact it's a financial asset. This is a big part of the misunderstanding that claims that we have over \$17 million in reserves. We don't! That \$7.7 million in loans is part of that figure. Now, because we issue debt, we are required by GAAP which is the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, to create and maintain a Reserve for Uncollectable Notes. It's on the Balance Sheet. Our Reserve totals \$1.5 million; we do not have \$1.5 million in bad loans. We do not have \$1.5 million in bad loans, which has been repeated numerous times over the last month. And they're not uncollectable. Our auditors Maher Duessel require a Reserve because we make loans. The Board decides how large that Reserve is. We chose to put 20% of the loan portfolio into Reserve. Once again, the money is not uncollectible; it is in reserve to make US GAAP compliant. That \$1.5 million is part of the misunderstanding that claims we have over \$17 million in Reserve, which we do not.

Our loan portfolio of \$7.7 million has one loan in default. That does not mean it is uncollectible. That loan has an outstanding balance of about \$107,000 as of today. The industry standard for loan making agencies like banks who do this for profit is 15%. We are well under that threshold. The defaulted loan in question is paying us back. However, they will do so with different terms than we originally negotiated, thereby considering them in default and simultaneously collectible. Loans are tools. A loan is a tool, not a mission. The Economic Development Financing Law of Pennsylvania permits us to make grants and loans to advance our mission to revitalize Erie County. Isn't that correct, Tim?

Mr. Wachter: Absolutely.

Dr. Wood: Next, I want to quickly address some public accusations of skimming off the top, or predatory lending by Bridgeway Capital. Over the past couple of weeks, I've taken calls from their leadership. Needless to say, they are dismayed about these unfounded attacks. Bridgeway Capital is a part of an important American tradition stemming from the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. In the groundbreaking legislation, the US Congress realized that to revitalize American communities, we need to take an economic development approach. No such approach existed at the time. The CRA legislation, Community Reinvestment Act legislation, created two vehicles for revitalizing communities. The first was the CDC or the Community Development Corporation concept. CDCs exist in Erie County to fulfill a crucial role in partnering with local governments and philanthropy to revitalize our communities. They are nonprofits, they are 501 C 3s, they are the primary vehicle for ECGRA to get local share gaming revenue into neighborhoods, main streets, commercial corridors, cities, boroughs, and townships. Examples include Our West Bayfront, Impact Corry, Union City Action, Bayfront Eastside Task Force, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, Downtown North East, Girard Main Street program, Erie Center for Arts and Technology, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network just to name a few. Some have the title CDC in their legal name others do not, however they play a crucial role of community engagement, speaking on behalf of residents, and giving ECGRA a Board-led organization with DNO insurance, Directors and Officers Insurance, and accountability through which to make programmatic investments. They are our main vehicle.

The second vehicle created by the CLR legislation is the CDFI which is a Community Development Financing Institution. CDFIs were created to provide market rate financing to distressed census tracts, the exact opposite of predatory lending, as they are not a for-profit entity. They charge rates based on the risk that they're taking. They loan money to non-bankable businesses. Local banks love them because they can refer a talented entrepreneur that doesn't fit their strict guarantee standards to a CDFI for financing with the express purpose of making that business bankable someday - with the express purpose of making that business bankable someday. There are times the businesses can't pay the loans back; that's the cost of doing business. CDFIs are not private equity. CDFIs are nonprofit banks regulated by the US Treasury Department, entrusted with billions of dollars in the form a New Market Tax Credits to subsidize revitalization projects across the United States. Once again, they are regulated by the US Treasury. This is a group we're investing in. Therefore,

having as many CDFIs in our economic development efforts as possible is paramount. So, I'm glad Bridgeway Capital was there for Dominic's when they couldn't access a private loan, and I wish they could have made it through.

When a CDFI considers locating in our county, it is important as members of this Board to understand that we are attracting these dollars into our region and that we can be proud that we attracted Bridgeway Capital to Erie County when we had money, when we lacked capital for small businesses. These are investment dollars flowing from outside the region. I want more CDFIs to come to Erie, to come here and invest - not less. ECGRA should spend more time engaging with CDFIs.

I'm grateful to the Board and to County Council for its confidence in ECGRA's mission and the ECGRA team. In the past month, it's been very stressful. But we're proud of our work and are always here to answer questions that you may have about our grants, programs, investments from Summit to Millcreek, from McKean to Waterford, from Greene Township to Edinboro, and every place in between. As our hashtag states, ECGRA Works. ECGRA Works. But ECGRA's not about our team or even Board members. ECGRA is about the municipalities that are here today, the organizations that are here today, and the small businesses that have taken the time to learn how to access these funds and put them to work for Erie County. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Dr. Wood.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I wasn't prepared to say anything, but I wanted to offer this to the Board. I've written more memos and letters to this Board in the last 12 years regarding how to operate in line with the very complicated funding regime set forth in the Horse Racing Gaming Development Act, the Settlement of 2010 which created the funding regime in which we're currently operating under in compliance with the Horse Racing Development Act, and to be in compliance with the provisions of the Administrative Code from Erie County which created ECGRA, and the Economic Development Financing Law which is the legal vehicle through which you make your ultimate investments. I believe each of those opinions has been distributed to each one of the Board members over the last 12 years and I think some of them even go in new Board member orientation packets. And I apologize in advance for their verbosity, but they are very . . . it's a complicated system that we're working in. There's been a lot of allegations regarding the legality of operations. And I didn't clear this with anyone, but I'd be willing to answer any questions from the Board that you may have regarding any legality of any operation of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority right here in public.

There are no questions of Mr. Wachter.

Mr. Wachter: Thank you, I have nothing further.

### OLD BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 4, 2024 – Resolution to Accept the Employment Contract for the Executive Director

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Ms. Hess makes a motion to accept the Executive Director's contract. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion.

Mr. Winschel: I just have some comments before I vote. First of all, I'd like to say that I do support ECGRA, how it was established, the autonomy of what it stands for today. I've been on the Board a relatively short time and I've seen all the good it has done and the thousands of people that benefit from the projects and events that ECGRA has supported. But I'd like to address the item that we're discussing from this motion brought forward. These comments are not about the Director but about the contract itself and the due diligence thereof.

A few points of clarity of my position before we vote. One topic that has been mentioned lately is about the overhead and the administrative costs of ECGRA. In most organizations that usually comes down to salaries and benefits. This started about a year ago when we talked about the contract extension. It showed up on the agenda with really no discussion prior to that, and it was tabled until the fall, September, with no discussion in between. Trying to do some due diligence as I normally do, I asked at that point for a compensation study stating that I'm unsure that the compensation for the Director is being in the ballpark. I asked the Chair to have the Solicitor inquire about the compensation studies and Mr. Burney did; I appreciate that, and what firms that could provide that. He complied but when the information was presented next board meeting, that motion never gained the support to move forward and basically died as quickly as it was originated. I continued to pursue it through another route. I recently was directed to another Authority that had conducted such a study. I reached out and that member had said that that study was shared in executive session and that they needed to reach out to their Solicitor to see if that was okay to share. I never heard back and then followed up with another email and to this date, no response. So, simultaneously I had asked our Solicitor, and I appreciate Attorney Wachter, did reach out to their Solicitor asking if we could have that. It was probably a right-to-know document. Upon follow-up with Attorney Wachter, their Solicitor never responded to Attorney Wachter's requests. I was hoping for some professional courtesy to exist, even and "no" would have sufficed. As of today, I'm still lacking the concrete information that I feel comfortable with to make an informed decision regarding the salary piece of the contract.

Fast forward to January, and the contract once again appeared on the agenda – with no conversation or discussion, and it was tabled. We met to discuss the contract. During and after I made several requests and offered suggestions concerning the contract. These included, but not limited to length, annual increase, increase tied to performance, benefit package including health care benefits, and health care premium share, and outside business activities. I was hoping for additional conversation, discussion, and collaboration. My request for those all fell short of what I would consider adequate for me to feel comfortable moving forward. I would need substantially more to feel that the proper amount of due diligence was achieved before I can move forward with it. For those reasons I cannot be in favor of supporting a contract that may or may not be fiscally responsible.

Mr. Barney: Thank you.

Ms. Loll: I didn't prepare and write up a speech, but I just wanted to point out that I'm not saying that we don't do a good job for a lot of people, a lot of organizations. But we have a huge cost in running this and I really think that we need to reduce the cost as to what we spend to run this organization. And also too, we have been asked by Senator Laughlin's office to wait on any contracts that we might be considering for our director. So, basically, that's all I've got to say. I believe we should wait.

There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 4-2, with Ms. Loll and Mr. Winschel voting in the negative.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barney: Prior to adjourning, everyone should note that our next regularly scheduled meeting of ECGRA is Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 8:30am right here.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Amatangelo moves to adjourn. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 10:23am.

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**February 2024**

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2023-24 YTD</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
44000 · ARPA Fund				
44800 · Gaming Revenue	1,311,749.29	4,134,407.69		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue		1,914,504.55		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	45,043.46	495,765.61		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Grow		22,916.67		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		15,000.00		
46424.5 · Interest Income - 1855 Capital		9,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		13,000.00		
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive		19,097.22		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway		2,430.41		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		10,224.00		
46510 · Interest Income - YLI		13,272.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,356,792.75</u>	<u>6,649,618.15</u>		
<b>Expense</b>				
62100 · Contracted Services	8,323.56	71,605.10	<b>66,638.00</b>	<b>72,700.00</b>
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	3,019.40	20,430.71	<b>22,000.00</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>
65000 · Office Administration	672.95	12,613.65	<b>21,725.00</b>	<b>23,700.00</b>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	2,619.29	49,060.96	<b>51,425.00</b>	<b>56,100.00</b>
66000 · Payroll Expenses	32,264.26	274,500.31	<b>314,325.00</b>	<b>342,900.00</b>
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	463.97	1,507,563.38	<b>3,666,666.00</b>	<b>4,000,000.00</b>
7000 · Provision for Uncollect Notes	(181.00)	(2,835.00)		
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>47,182.43</u>	<u>1,932,939.11</u>	<u><b>4,142,779.00</b></u>	<u><b>4,519,400.00</b></u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	1,309,610.32	4,716,679.04		
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets	149,232.00	949,832.00		
70050 · Municipal Settlements	327,937.32	1,512,228.06		
70070 · Special Events		213,424.73		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		253,500.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street		50,000.00		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program		73,090.60		
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing				
70136 · Ignite Erie_Beehive		39,625.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block		233,333.00		
70180 · Anchor Building	271,500.00	303,166.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief				
<b>Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements</b>	<u>748,669.32</u>	<u>3,628,199.39</u>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>(748,669.32)</u>	<u>(3,628,199.39)</u>		
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>560,941.00</b></u>	<u><b>1,088,479.65</b></u>		

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of February 29, 2024

	<b>February</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	99,173.47
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	1,446,259.40
10102 · Restricted Funds	4,536,684.18
10104 · ARPA Fund	869,536.42
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	11,998,340.43
<b>Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings</b>	<b>18,850,820.43</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	18,949,993.90
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12004 · NR - BWC - Erie Growth	1,000,000.00
12005 · NR - Progress Fund	1,000,000.00
12010 · NR - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · NR - EDF Restructured	1,300,000.00
12060 · NR - BWC - Inclusive Erie	2,500,000.00
12070 · NR - Blue Highway	250,000.00
12080 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Sm Bus	520,000.00
12085 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Nnprofit	100,000.00
12090 · NR - eCAT	500,000.00
12500 · NR - Youth Leadership Institute	107,647.40
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,526,765.00)
<b>Total 12000 · Notes Receivable</b>	<b>6,250,882.40</b>
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	15,926.79
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>6,266,809.19</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>25,216,803.09</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>25,216,803.09</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
20100* · Deferred Revenue	(4,000,000.00)
20300 · Unearned Revenue	6,377,099.69
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,377,099.69</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	2,377,099.69
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	18,824,159.57
Net Income	1,088,479.65
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>22,839,703.40</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>25,216,803.09</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
**February 2024**

Expense	February	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
<b>62100 - Contracted Services</b>					
62110 - Accounting Fees	0.00	11,000.00	8,200.00	2,800.00	134.15%
62130 - Professional Services	3,000.00	39,431.92	40,000.00	(568.08)	98.58%
62140 - Legal Services	5,188.80	18,939.60	20,000.00	(1,060.40)	94.70%
62145 - Website Design	0.00	1,140.00	3,000.00	(1,860.00)	38.00%
62150 - Payroll Services	134.76	1,093.58	1,500.00	(406.42)	72.91%
<b>Total 62100 - Contracted Services</b>	<b>8,323.56</b>	<b>71,605.10</b>	<b>72,700.00</b>	<b>(1,094.90)</b>	<b>98.49%</b>
<b>62800 - Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>					
62840 - Office Equipment	0.00	2,745.31	6,000.00	(3,254.69)	45.76%
62890 - Rent	3,019.40	17,685.40	18,000.00	(314.60)	98.25%
<b>Total 62800 - Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>3,019.40</b>	<b>20,430.71</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>	<b>(3,569.29)</b>	<b>85.13%</b>
<b>65000 - Office Administration</b>					
65010 - Books, Subscriptions, Dues	65.00	2,357.84	3,000.00	(642.16)	78.59%
65020 - Postage	0.00	254.58	250.00	4.58	101.83%
65040 - Office Supplies	97.60	1,091.04	2,000.00	(908.96)	54.55%
65050 - Cell Phone	0.00	2,315.67	3,000.00	(684.33)	77.19%
65060 - Copier Lease	311.35	3,424.89	4,200.00	(775.11)	81.55%
65070 - Copier Printing Costs	0.00	68.59	500.00	(431.41)	13.72%
65080 - Bank Fees	0.00	397.00	500.00	(103.00)	79.40%
65085 - Professional Development	0.00	850.00	6,000.00	(5,150.00)	14.17%
65090 - Meeting Expenses	199.00	1,854.04	4,000.00	(2,145.96)	46.35%
65095 - Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 65000 - Office Administration</b>	<b>672.95</b>	<b>12,613.65</b>	<b>23,700.00</b>	<b>(11,086.35)</b>	<b>53.22%</b>
<b>65100 - Other Types of Expenses</b>					
65105 - Outreach	0.00	4,788.00	5,000.00	(212.00)	95.76%
65110 - Advertising	319.74	4,004.14	4,000.00	4.14	100.10%
65115 - Phone/IT/Fax	844.49	17,614.87	18,000.00	(385.13)	97.86%
65120 - Insurance	1,455.06	15,718.49	18,600.00	(2,881.51)	84.51%
65130 - Grant Management Software	0.00	5,562.00	5,500.00	62.00	101.13%
65150 - Travel	0.00	1,373.46	5,000.00	(3,626.54)	27.47%
<b>Total 65100 - Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>2,619.29</b>	<b>49,060.96</b>	<b>56,100.00</b>	<b>(7,039.04)</b>	<b>87.45%</b>
<b>66000 - Payroll Expenses</b>					
66005 - Salaries & Wages	27,655.71	238,320.24	300,000.00	(61,679.76)	79.44%
66010 - FITW Tax	2,115.66	16,925.28	21,000.00	(4,074.72)	80.60%
66015 - FUTA Tax	36.79	126.00	150.00	(24.00)	84.00%
66020 - PASUI Tax	243.66	653.32	2,000.00	(1,346.68)	32.67%
66700 - PMRS	2,212.44	18,475.47	19,750.00	(1,274.53)	93.55%
<b>Total 66000 - Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>32,264.26</b>	<b>274,500.31</b>	<b>342,900.00</b>	<b>(68,399.69)</b>	<b>80.05%</b>
<b>67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)</b>					
67005 - Contracted Services - ARPA	0.00	52,457.76	214,540.20	(162,082.44)	24.45%
67010 - Subawards - ARPA	0.00	1,419,241.04	1,925,293.10	(506,052.06)	73.72%
67025 - Indirect Costs - ARPA	463.97	4,245.64	7,772.47	(3,526.83)	54.62%
67030 - Salaries & Wages - ARPA	0.00	31,618.94	31,618.94	0.00	100.00%
<b>Total 67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)</b>	<b>463.97</b>	<b>1,507,563.38</b>	<b>2,179,224.71</b>	<b>(671,661.33)</b>	<b>252.79%</b>
<b>7000 - Provision for Uncollect Notes</b>	<b>(181.00)</b>	<b>(2,835.00)</b>			
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>47,182.43</b>	<b>1,932,939.11</b>	<b>2,698,624.71</b>	<b>(765,685.60)</b>	<b>71.63%</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

**Schedule of Grant Reserve**

as of

**February 29, 2024**

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
<b>Restricted Uncommitted Funds</b>	4,536,684.18		
<b>Committed Funds</b>	1,446,259.40		
<b>ARPA Funds</b>	869,536.42		
 <b>2023 Restricted Funds:</b> (75% - after settlement payments)			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		300,245.10	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,183,535.82	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,338,877.48	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue	1,311,749.29	1,311,749.29	<b>4,134,407.69</b>
 <b>2023 Interactive Gaming Revenue</b>			
FY 2022-2023		1,914,504.55	<b>1,914,504.55</b>
 <b>FY Disbursements:</b>			
First Quarter Disbursements		557,111.92	
Second Quarter Disbursements		1,242,000.37	
Third Quarter Disbursements		2,356,014.97	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements	748,669.32	892,313.17	<b>5,047,440.43</b>

**Disbursements Detail**

**Grants/Settlements/MRIs**

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b>			
<b>Settlements</b>			
Summit Township	147,571.77	680,502.56	
Greene Township	36,073.11	166,345.10	
McKean Township	36,073.11	166,345.10	
Millcreek Township	36,073.11	166,345.10	
Waterford Township	36,073.11	166,345.10	
Erie County	36,073.11	166,345.10	
			<b>1,512,228.06</b>
 <b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
Girard Township		21,000.00	
Harborcreek Township		34,000.00	
Jefferson Educational Society		98,500.00	
Multi-Mun Emergency Services Commission		100,000.00	
			<b>253,500.00</b>
 <b>AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT</b>			
<b>Small Business Ecosystem</b>			
Penn State Behrend		200,000.00	
			<b>200,000.00</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

**Schedule of Grant Reserve**

as of

**February 29, 2024**

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (cont)</b>			
<b>Anchor Building</b>			
Christian Ministries of the Apostolic Faith		45,000.00	
			<b>45,000.00</b>
<b>Community Facilities</b>			
Booker T Washington Center		125,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro		25,000.00	
Boys & Girls Club of Erie		70,000.00	
Community Shelter Services		105,694.00	
Corry Hiher Education Council		59,500.00	
Eagle's Nest Leadership Cororation		125,000.00	
Edinboro Market		125,000.00	
Greater Erie Community Action Committee		13,680.00	
Impact Corry		0.00	
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House		125,000.00	
International Institute of Erie - USCRI		125,000.00	
JFK Center		125,000.00	
Journey Healing Together		25,000.00	
Martin Luther King Center		125,000.00	
Mercy Center for Women		100,000.00	
Mercy Hilltop Center		99,000.00	
Northwestern Community Youth Center		18,500.00	
Sarah A. Reed Children's Center		86,000.00	
St. Martin Center		75,000.00	
YMCA of Corry		97,331.00	
			<b>1,649,705.00</b>
<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
Downtown Girard		75,000.00	
			<b>75,000.00</b>
<b>Renaissance Block</b>			
Downtown Girard		50,000.00	
			<b>50,000.00</b>
<b>Erie County Investment Playbook</b>			
Nonprofit Partnership		64,771.00	
			<b>64,771.00</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
as of  
**February 29, 2024**

**NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES**

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>Anchor Building</b>			
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	75,000.00	75,000.00	
Maggie Knox Western	35,000.00	35,000.00	
R. L. Gaines Community Center	30,000.00	30,000.00	
Urban Erie Community Development Corp	100,000.00	100,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie	31,500.00	31,500.00	
			<b>271,500.00</b>
<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
<b>Renaissance Block</b>			
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		50,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	
Borough of Union City		50,000.00	
Impact Corry		50,000.00	
			<b>200,000.00</b>

**QUALITY OF PLACE**

**Community Assets**

**Arts, Culture, & Heritage**

Albion Area Fair, Inc.		5,000.00	
AmeriMasala		15,000.00	
Community Resources for Independence		3,500.00	
Dafmark Dance Theater		12,000.00	
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival		15,000.00	
Downtown North East, Inc.		12,000.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		7,500.00	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		12,000.00	
Erie Yesterday		8,325.00	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		15,000.00	
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society		5,935.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		10,000.00	
Harborcreek Historical Society		9,822.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		12,000.00	
Lawrence Park Township		1,400.00	
North East Arts Council		3,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		6,225.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		10,000.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		8,000.00	
Unitarian Universalist Congregation		2,500.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		15,000.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		15,000.00	
WQLN Public Media		15,000.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		15,000.00	
			<b>234,207.00</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
as of  
**February 29, 2024**

**QUALITY OF PLACE (con't)**

**Community Centers**

	February	YTD	Subtotal
Borough of Edinboro	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	
Martin Luther King Center		15,000.00	
			5,000.00

**Parks, Fields, Trails**

Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	6,650.00	6,650.00	
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	12,500.00	12,500.00	
Bayfront Maritime Center	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro	13,000.00	13,000.00	
Fairview Township	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Greenfield Township	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Humane Society of NWPA		18,500.00	
Impact Corry	25,000.00	25,000.00	
McKean Recreation Authority	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Platea Borough	2,082.00	2,082.00	
			177,732.00

**Special Events**

Albion Area Fair, Inc.	12,707.00
AmeriMasala	3,543.55
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	1,520.11
Barber National Institute	17,683.00
Borough of Edinboro	1,625.00
Borough of Union City	230.00
Borough of Wesleyville	965.50
CAFE	20,000.00
Community Blood Bank of NWPA	1,400.00
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc,	4,594.55
Downtown North East, Inc.	887.00
Edinboro University Foundation	2,525.00
Erie Bird Observatory	265.00
Erie County Veterans Memorial Park	300.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	6,000.00
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc	3,011.20
Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game	1,068.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.	5,000.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	6,866.00
Film Society of Northwestern PA	9,255.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2,050.00
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team	915.00
Harborcreek Township	1,400.00



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
as of  
**February 29, 2024**

		<u>February</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
<b>Committed Funds:</b>				
<b>N&amp;C</b>	<b>Renaissance Block 2018</b>			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		7,000.00	70,000.00
	<b>2 Bayfront Eastside Taskforce</b>		25,000.00	50,000.00
	ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
	<b>Renaissance Block 2022</b>			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	100,000.00
	<b>Renaissance Block 2023</b>			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Borough of Union City		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Impact Corry		50,000.00	100,000.00
	<b>Anchor Building</b>			
	19 Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	20 Borough of Union City		15,000.00	64,375.00
	23 RL Gaines Community Center	30,000.00	30,000.00	60,000.00
	<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
	1 City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	3 Waterford Borough		84,600.00	249,800.00
	<b>Mission Main Street 2022</b>			
	Downtown North East		87,500.00	175,000.00
	Edinboro Community & Economic Development		62,500.00	125,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		125,000.00	125,000.00
<b>MUN</b>	<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
	21 Borough of North East		50,000.00	100,000.00
<b>SB</b>	<b>Beehive Network</b>			
	<b>Community Enterprise Financing Loan</b>			
	<b>Small Business Ecosystem</b>			
	Impact Corry		87,500.00	175,000.00
<b>PP</b>	<b>Pilot Program</b>			
<b>Y&amp;E</b>	<b>Shaping Tomorrow</b>			
	<b>Summer Jobs</b>		76,909.40	150,000.00
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>		<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>1,446,259.40</b>	<b>2,649,675.00</b>
<b>ARPA Transformative Funds</b>				
	<b>Subawards</b>		703,927.06	3,622,025.00
	<b>Contracted Services</b>		162,082.44	273,274.00
	<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>		0.00	93,406.00
	<b>Indirect Costs</b>	463.93	3,526.92	11,295.00
		<b>463.93</b>	<b>869,536.42</b>	<b>4,000,000.00</b>
<b>Total ARPA Funds</b>				

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Transaction List Detail**  
**February 2024**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/01/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	01/13/2024 to 01/26/2024 Payroll	-9,832.52
02/01/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	01/13/2024 to 01/26/2024 Simple IRA	-250.00
02/01/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 01/26/2024	-737.48
02/01/2024	EFT	Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	2023 Anchor Building	-75,000.00
02/01/2024	EFT	Maggie Knox Western	2023 Anchor Building	-35,000.00
02/01/2024	EFT	R. L. Gaines Community Center	2023 Anchor Building - 1st Draw	-30,000.00
02/01/2024	EFT	Urban Erie Community Development Corp	2023 Anchor Building	-100,000.00
02/01/2024	EFT	YMCA of Greater Erie	2023 Anchor Building	-31,500.00
02/02/2024	EFT	VISA	2024 January Statement	-162.60
02/08/2024	EFT	Local iQ	1/2, 1/7, 1/14 Ads	-319.74
02/13/2024	EFT	Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	2023 Community Assets PFT	-6,650.00
02/13/2024	EFT	Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	2023 Community Assets PFT	-12,500.00
02/13/2024	EFT	Waterford Borough	2019 MMS Rd 3 - Final Payment	-84,600.00
02/13/2024	EFT	Impact Corry	2023 Community Assets PFT	-25,000.00
02/13/2024	EFT	Parker Philips	2024 Feburary Professional Services	-3,000.00
02/13/2024	EFT	Platea Borough	2023 Community Assets PFT	-2,082.00
02/13/2024	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2024 February Phone/IT	-938.32
02/13/2024	EFT	Greenfield Township	2023 Community Assets PFT	-25,000.00
02/20/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	01/27/24 to 2/9/24 Payroll	-9,820.88
02/20/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	1/27/24 to 2/9/24 Simple IRA	-250.00
02/20/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 2/9/2024	-737.48
02/20/2024	EFT	Summit Township	2023 Q4 Settlement	-147,571.77
02/20/2024	EFT	Greene Township	2023 Q4 Settlement	-36,073.11
02/20/2024	EFT	McKean Township	2023 Q4 Settlement	-36,073.11
02/20/2024	EFT	Millcreek Township	2023 Q4 Settlement	-36,073.11
02/20/2024	EFT	Waterford Township	2023 Q4 Settlement	-36,073.11
02/20/2024	EFT	Erie County	2023 Q4 Settlement	-36,073.11
02/26/2024	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2024 February Copier Lease	-345.95
02/26/2024	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2024 February Invoice	-5,188.80
02/26/2024	EFT	Grise Audio Visual Center, Inc	Community Facilities Presser	-199.00
02/26/2024	EFT	Bayfront Maritime Center	2023 Community Assets PFT	-25,000.00
02/26/2024	EFT	McKean Recreation Authority	2023 Community Assets PFT	-25,000.00
02/26/2024	EFT	Borough of Edinboro	2023 Community Assets PFT	-13,000.00
02/27/2024	EFT	Altair Real Estate	2024 February, March Rent	-3,355.00
02/27/2024	EFT	Great Lakes Insurance Services Group	2024 Public Officals Insurance	-13,348.00
02/27/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 2/23/2024	-737.48
02/27/2024	EFT	Fairview Township	2023 Community Assets PFT	-25,000.00
02/28/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	02/10/2024 to 02/23/2024 Payroll	-9,783.18
02/28/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	02/10/2024 to 02/23/2024 Simple IRA	-250.00



**SCORECARD** CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE \$0.00 CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE 06/16/2024

**Account Summary**

Billing Cycle		01/10/2024
Days In Billing Cycle		31
Previous Balance		\$136.71
Purchases	+	\$162.60
Cash	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$0.00
Payments	-	\$136.71
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	\$0.00

**NEW BALANCE \$162.60**

**Credit Summary**

Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$39,837.40
Available Cash	\$39,837.40
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

**Account Inquiries**

Call us at: (866) 317-0355  
Lost or Stolen Card: (866) 317-0355

Go to [WWW.MyCardStatement.com](http://WWW.MyCardStatement.com)

Write us at PO BOX 30495, TAMPA, FL 33630-3495

**Payment Summary**

NEW BALANCE	\$162.60
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$162.60
PAYMENT DUE DATE	02/04/2024

*NOTE: Grace period to avoid a finance charge on purchases, pay entire new balance by payment due date. Finance charge accrues on cash advances until paid and will be billed on your next statement.*

**Corporate Activity**

<b>TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY</b>				<b>\$136.71-</b>
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01/03	01/03	1625705581	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$136.71-

**Cardholder Account Summary**

<b>TAMMI MICHALI</b> ####-####-####-9468	Payments & Other Credits \$0.00	Purchases & Other Charges \$162.60	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$162.60
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**Cardholder Account Detail**

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
12/12	12/13	PBUS01	24137463347001490797905	GIANT EAGLE #4038 ERIE PA	\$1.99
12/18	12/19	PBUS01	24692163352101920854535	AMZN Mktp US*6I9F02D43 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$30.78
12/21	12/22	PBUS01	24692163355104306401902	AMZN Mktp US*2Q5112X83 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$46.84
01/02	01/03	PBUS01	24137464003001283263373	GIANT EAGLE #4038 ERIE PA	\$1.99

PLEASE DETACH COUPON AND RETURN PAYMENT USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE - ALLOW UP TO 7 DAYS FOR RECEIPT

ERIEBANK  
PO BOX 42  
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

**Account Number**  
####-####-####-8643

Check box to indicate name/address change on back of this coupon

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>New Balance</b>	<b>Total Minimum Payment Due</b>	<b>Payment Due Date</b>
01/10/24	\$162.60	\$162.60	02/04/24

\$

BL ACCT 00100029-10000000  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
5340 FRYLING ROAD  
SUITE 201  
ERIE PA 16510-4672

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
VISA  
PO BOX 4517  
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4517

Cardholder Account Detail Continued						
Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount	
01/01	01/03	PBUS01	24789304002903101452098	GANNETT NEWSRPRR NE 888-8710686 IN	\$65.00	Subscript
01/02	01/04	PBUS01	24121574003000002020274	KOLDROCK WATERS, INC 000-0000000 PA	\$16.00	O.S

**Additional Information About Your Account**  
 MANAGE YOUR CARD ACCOUNT ONLINE. IT'S FREE! IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO [WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM](http://WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM) AND ENROLL IN OUR ONLINE SERVICE. YOU CAN REVIEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION, TRACK SPENDING, SET ALERT NOTIFICATIONS, DOWNLOAD FILES, AND MUCH MORE. MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT IS FAST, SECURE AND EASY WITH MYCARDSTATEMENT. ENROLL TODAY!

THE TOTAL FINANCE CHARGE PAID ON YOUR ACCOUNT DURING THE PAST YEAR WAS \$0.00.

ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 01/09/2024					
SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2024

Finance Charge Summary / Plan Level Information										
Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM <sup>1</sup>	Average Daily Balance	Periodic Rate *	Corresponding APR	Finance Charges	Effective APR Fees **	Effective APR	Ending Balance	
<b>Purchases</b>										
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	E	\$0.00	1.02083%(M)	12.2500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$162.60	
<b>Cash</b>										
CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	1.02083%(M)	12.2500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	
* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily							Days In Billing Cycle: 31			
** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees							APR = Annual Percentage Rate			
<sup>1</sup> FCM = Finance Charge Method										
(V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.										

Final Details for Order #111-5137308-6033000

[Print this page for your records.](#)

**Order Placed:** December 18, 2023  
**Amazon.com order number:** 111-5137308-6033000  
**Order Total:** \$30.78

---

**Shipped on December 18, 2023**

**Items Ordered**

**Price**

1 of: *Dixie PerfectTouch 12 oz. Insulated Paper Hot Coffee Cup by GP PRO (Georgia-Pacific), Coffee Haze, 5342CDSBP, 160 Cups Per Case, Coffee Haze Design* \$30.78

Sold by: MyOfficeInnovations/Staples, Inc. (seller profile)

Supplied by: Other

Condition: New

**Shipping Address:**

Perry N. Wood  
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201  
ERIE, PA 16510-4672  
United States

**Shipping Speed:**

Local Express Shipping

---

**Payment information**

**Payment Method:**

Visa ending in 9468

**Billing address**

Perry N. Wood  
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201  
ERIE, PA 16510-4672  
United States

**Credit Card transactions**

Item(s) Subtotal: \$30.78  
Shipping & Handling: \$0.00  
-----

Total before tax: \$30.78  
Estimated tax to be collected: \$0.00  
-----

**Grand Total: \$30.78**

Visa ending in 9468: December 18, 2023: \$30.78

To view the status of your order, return to Order Summary.

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English

United States

Help

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## Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024  
11:00am – 1:00pm  
5240 Knowledge Parkway  
Erie, PA 16510

### AGENDA

1. Special Events
2. Mission Main Street
3. Community Facility – Union Township: Municipal Building Renovation
4. Harvest 912 – Updated Scope of Work
5. Infinite Erie Neighborhood Revitalization Portfolio
6. Youth Leadership Institute of Erie Restructuring
7. Impact Investment Statement
8. Good of the Order



**E·C·G·R·A**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
MARCH  
2024**

**February 2024**

**Meeting with Executive Director**  
**Ongoing Social Media Management**  
**Ongoing Consulting**  
**February Comms**

**IMPLEMENTED**

- 21 Total February posts
- 12 Total graphics created
- Community Facilitates
  - Media advisory and pitching
  - Press Event
  - Press release and distribution
  - Grant recipient graphics

Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director

**IN PROGRESS | 2024 Grant Releases and Graphics**

- 2023–2024 Annual Report
- Lead Assets
  - Grant recipient graphics
  - Press release and distribution
- Holiday Graphics
- Economic Impact Report rollout
  - Press release
  - PowerPoint presentation
  - Social media graphics

**IN PLANNING**

- Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
- ECGRA Playbook
- Roadshow Tours



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Mary Wassell  
[wassell@parkerphilips.com](mailto:wassell@parkerphilips.com)  
814.528.4930 | mobile

**NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\***

## **ECGRA Grants Strengthen Local Community Facilities** *Invests Nearly \$2 Million In 2024 Community Facilities Grants*

**Erie, PA (February 13, 2024)** – The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded \$1,649,705.00 for their Building a Better Future — Community Facilities grants, which will be distributed to 19 community facilities across Erie County.

“The critical role that community facilities play in the community and economic development of a region cannot be overstated,” said Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. “Serving as a hub spot for social, educational, cultural, and recreational activities, these facilities have the power to transform neighborhoods creating vibrant, inclusive spaces with long lasting impacts.”

The Community Facilities grant program is an investment that provides funding for capital improvements, programming, and equipment for publicly accessible community centers. Community centers in Erie County have provided residents with basic health and well-being, job training, mentoring, education, nutrition, and other benefits to a large cross-section of the community.

“ECGRA has provided the Mercy Center for Women and Mercy Anchor Community Center with transformational gifts for both facilities throughout the years,” said Jennie Hagerty, Executive Director, Mercy Center for Women. “To allocate an anchor grant to an

anchor building where funding affords individuals the opportunity to live in an apartment, with wrap-around services, is a victory.

“We are grateful to ECGRA for their partnership and belief in our mission. The ECGRA team took the time to witness the project, provide the funding, and transform a vacant building into a future of hope.”

“The Building a Better Future — Community Facilities grant program is a saving grace to St. Martin Center’s physical structure, programming, and mission,” said David González, MS, CEO, St. Martin Center, Inc. “COVID impacted our ability to manage a costly new roof, and our current funding is allocated where it is needed most – which is to help Erie County families to have what they need to thrive.

“We are incredibly grateful to ECGRA for ensuring that we can be here for years to come!”

Below is a breakdown of the 2024 Building a Better Future — Community Facilities grants approved:

<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
<b>Booker T. Washington Center</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>Borough of Edinboro</b>	\$25,000.00
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Erie</b>	\$70,000.00
<b>Community Shelter Services</b>	\$105,694.00
<b>Corry Higher Education Council</b>	\$59,500.00
<b>Eagle’s Nest Leadership Corporation</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>Edinboro Market</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>GECAC</b>	\$13,680.00
<b>Inner-City Neighborhood Art House</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>International Institute of Erie</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>John F. Kennedy Center</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>Journey: Healing Together</b>	\$25,000.00
<b>Martin Luther King Center</b>	\$125,000.00
<b>Mercy Center for Women</b>	\$100,000.00
<b>Mercy Hilltop Center</b>	\$99,000.00

<b>Northwestern Community Youth Center</b>	<b>\$18,500.00</b>
<b>Sarah A. Reed Children's Center</b>	<b>\$86,000.00</b>
<b>St. Martin Center, Inc.</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
<b>YMCA of Corry</b>	<b>\$97,331.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,649,705.00</b>

###



## Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024  
11:00am – 1:00pm  
5240 Knowledge Parkway  
Erie, PA 16510

### AGENDA

1. Special Events
2. Mission Main Street
3. Community Facility – Union Township: Municipal Building Renovation
4. Harvest 912 – Updated Scope of Work
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6. Youth Leadership Institute of Erie Restructuring
7. Impact Investment Statement
8. Good of the Order

# Fairview Townships reinvests \$3M, looks at dangerous structures

By Maryann Mook  
Correspondent

Reinvesting \$3 million, small flow treatment facilities and dangerous structures were a few of the agenda items in front of Fairview Township supervisors' Feb. 1 meeting.

During the secretary-treasurer's report, Michelle Barnes asked for a motion to approve a resolution to open an account with Uninvest. The resolution would authorize the transfer of \$3 million-plus from a Public Funds Money Market Account at First National Bank to an Elite Money Market Account at Uninvest to increase interest income.

Supervisor Mark Gennuso said he learned about Uninvest at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' conference last year.

Gennuso said Uninvest is, basically, an investment bank using higher returns of interest than other financial institutions.

The current rate of interest at Uninvest is 5.50%, with an annual percentage yield of

5.64%. The account would be a liquid money market account, which is limited to six transactions per month.

Uninvest will provide the township with a Letter of Credit from the Federal Home Loan Bank for the township's full investment at no cost.

Gennuso also said the township's solicitor said Act 72 Public Funds allows the township to make the investment.

"We owe it to our taxpayers," Gennuso said.

Supervisors Pete Kraus, Justin Pacansky and Gennuso passed the motion to authorize moving the funds from one bank to another.

In other business, supervisors passed a resolution for construction of a small flow treatment facility at 4466 Bear Creek to repair an existing malfunction on-lot system serving a three-bedroom single family residence.

Supervisors also passed a resolution for a Plan Revision for New Land Development - a small flow treatment facility - for Michael and Jackie Bernatowicz, 4466 Bear Creek Road.

Supervisors passed the Small Flow Treatment Facility Agreement between Fairview Township and Michael and Jackie Bernatowicz, 4466 Bear Creek Road.

Supervisors also passed a motion to deem a structure at 580 Dorothy Ave. as an unsafe structure.

Urban Engineers Inc. completed a visual assessment of the property, and the building located at 580 Dorothy Ave. was assessed within the context of Fairview Township Ordinance No. 98-15 for the identification, repair and removal of structures dangerous to the health, safety or general welfare of Fairview Township.

Due to a hole in the roof and no apparent efforts to make repairs, Urban Engineers recommends the structure be classified as dangerous as defined by the township ordinance.

Also, supervisors passed a motion to request Urban Engineers complete a visual assessment of 3711 Haskell Drive within the context of the township Ordinance No. 98-15 for the identification, repair and removal of structures dangerous

to the health, safety or general welfare of the township.

Supervisors passed a Corporate Glass Proposal in the amount of \$3,340.87 to remove the existing storefront in the employees' break room and prepare for a new system. The proposal includes furnishing and installing a new thermally broken storefront framing system with 1-inch tempered insulated safety glass on each end and furnishing and installing a clear anodized aluminum casement window into the center bay of the new storefront system.

The new unit will have an insect protection screen.

Kraus said the break room currently does not have a fresh air flow.

"We want to replace the window with a window that will crank out and allow fresh air," Kraus said. "I think that would be the first step in getting ventilation in there."

Pacansky reported that he is working with Urban Engineers on a Green Light Go grant, which would provide funds for a new traffic signal at the intersection of Manchester Road and Route 20. The grant

requires a 20% match.

Parks and Recreation Director Nate Millet said Winter Fun Day, held Jan. 21, was a big success. This year, participants were asked to donate items for the Eric City Mission. Millet also said that clothing drive was a big success.

Township Engineer Andrew Holland reported the grant from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has been received. The funds go toward protecting the shoreline and controlling erosion behind the Brugger House at Avonia Bear Park by installing an armor stone revetment. The grant was for \$95,600 and the project cost was \$158,500.

Also, the township was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Eric County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) toward the cost of constructing pickleball courts at Pleasant Ridge Park. The township will also apply for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Holland also said he is reviewing development plans for a possible Dollar General Store at the corner of Route 98 and Sterrettania Road.

# Erie Times-News

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Davis blasts Gaming Revenue Authority

### Organization has long sought to avoid politics

A. J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When former state Sen. Jane Earll helped establish the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority in 2008, a single



Davis

word resonated with her as arguably its most essential feature: its autonomy.

Earll, a Republican who chaired the Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee, which oversaw the passage of the state's casino gaming legislation, said ECGRA was purposely designed to

be an independent authority, governed not by elected officials, but a volunteer board.

The thinking was that an independent board, although appointed by Erie County Council, would be the best way to ensure that local share gaming revenue was distributed fairly across the county and not be subject to political whims.

But recently, Erie County Executive

Brenton Davis has chipped away at that philosophy, publicly criticizing ECGRA and threatening to dismantle it.

In recent weeks, Davis has singled out the authority for its operating costs and executive director's salary; rebuked it in the news media as a "slush fund of walking-around money;" and floated the idea of dissolving the board.

See GAMING, Page 4A

## Gaming

Continued from Page 1A

altogether, placing all funding decisions squarely in the hands of political leaders.

Davis, who's presided over a 10.9% property tax hike for fiscal year 2024, has argued that the county could do a better job at leveraging ECGRA's funds in pursuit of tax relief and economic development projects.

Denouncing the authority as an enabler of predatory lending, he's requested a detailed report on ECGRA's loan portfolio and years-worth of financial records to ensure its practices are above board.

He's also joined a handful of state lawmakers, who, in a Feb. 1 letter sent by state Sen. Dan Laughlin's office, requested that ECGRA refrain from any long-term obligations pending an audit by the state Auditor General's office.

That includes not approving ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood's five-year contract extension, which is slated to be voted on Thursday.

### ECGRA board members, solicitor say evidence is lacking

Despite the frequency of Davis' public comments, ECGRA Chairman Dale Barney, along with board members Whitey Cleaver, Kelly Hess and Angela Amatangelo, insist the county executive has produced no evidence of wrongdoing.

While Davis stated in a recent Corry Journal report that there are a "lot of legal questions surrounding ECGRA's decision-making" and that "where there's smoke, there's fire," County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll declined to comment on those questions for the Times-News.

In fact, ECGRA Solicitor Tim Wachter informed the board in a Feb. 6 memo obtained by the Times-News that ECGRA's funding approvals have "met both the spirit and letter" of state gaming laws.

ECGRA's finances are also audited by an independent accounting firm every year, the results of which are approved by the board and shared with County Council and Davis's office.

For Earll, who represented Erie

County in the 49th Senatorial district seat and who considers herself an "architect" of ECGRA, Davis' comments have done a "disserve to the credibility of what has been a highly functional organization."

"To just cast aspersions that impugn the credibility of the whole organization is irresponsible," she said. "I know the county executive wants to have more money at his discretion to invest in economic development. But this model has worked wonderfully."

Earll also pushed back on Davis' frequent assertion that gaming revenue was designed to lower taxes, insisting the bulk of gaming revenue already goes toward property tax relief via the state's share. The local share that comes to ECGRA, she said, was "never earmarked for that purpose."

Of the roughly \$10 million of local share gaming revenue generated annually from Presque Isle Downs & Casino, roughly \$5 million goes to the county, \$1 million goes to the Erie Land Bank and about \$4 million goes to ECGRA.

Of ECGRA's share, about 25% goes toward public safety and infrastructure in Summit Township, which houses the casino, and to municipalities contiguous to the casino, and the county, as per a 2010 legal settlement.

The remaining amount, roughly \$3 million, goes towards municipal grants and loans to spur economic and community development across the county.

Earll said these monies should go toward the best return on investment and that she has "no confidence that the political decisionmakers are capable of that."

"Reasonable minds can disagree on how much someone should get paid or what percentage of your budget should go to overhead," Earll said. "But that's why an independent board is there — to make sure that those issues are addressed internally with the mindset of protecting the community's interest. That's the board's job."

### Davis has been accused of overreach — and faced roadblocks — before

Could Davis actually dissolve ECGRA? It would be an uphill battle.

He would need the ECGRA board to vote on a resolution to dissolve itself

before passing it onto County Council, a proposition that a majority of both bodies already reject.

Wachter also noted in a memo to the board that state lawmakers, while authorized to request a third-party audit, do not have the authority to force ECGRA to refrain from voting on long-term obligations.

Similar roadblocks have hindered Davis before, especially when accused of overstepping his authority toward boards, commissions and authorities.

In May 2022, Davis requested the resignations of three of the five members of the Erie County Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors, a move that he had described as part of a larger effort to "align the ECRDA board with the strategy of the current Erie County executive."

The request was quickly condemned by the board and considered incongruous with the Pennsylvania Urban Redevelopment Law, which provides that board members are appointed to a five-year term and will hold office until a successor has been appointed.

Davis eventually backed off his request.

In the fall of 2022, Davis called for the removal of six members of the Erie County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and demanded the commission's funds be frozen until a full complement of members was seated.

Davis removed the first three members because of what he considered conflicts of interest. However, Commission Solicitor Wachter stated the members had properly recused themselves from the grants process in accordance with the commission's bylaws and the Pennsylvania Ethics Act.

Davis removed the other three members because they continued to move forward with the commission's business despite his request that they pause activities. The three members, who were not appointed by Davis, remained on the commission, arguing that Davis merely sought to frustrate and block the commission's work.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on X @ETNRao

# Erie Times-News

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## ECGRA undergoes an audit every year

### Why is Brenton Davis unsatisfied?

A.J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is no stranger to audits.

The authority, which administers millions of dollars in casino gaming revenue every year to spur economic and community development, undergoes an annual audit by independent accounting firm Maher Duessel.

The audits, which are required by ECGRA's charter and shared each year with



Wood

Erie County Council and the office of Erie County Executive Brenton Davis, consistently show that ECGRA fairly and accurately reports its finances, as stated in ECGRA's five most recent audit reports obtained by the Erie Times-News.

But for Davis, who's recently voiced concerns about ECGRA's financial management, the audits haven't been detailed enough.

In recent weeks, the county executive has requested an exhaustive list of financial information from the authority, including, among other things, years

of credit card statements, contracts, financial interest reports, check detail reports and every payment ever made to ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood.

Davis has stated his goal is accountability, transparency and ensuring taxpayer money is not being wasted. And while many of the materials requested are already checked by Maher Duessel, some information is not.

Here's what Davis is looking for.

#### Davis seeks details of lending terms

Davis is requesting to see a comprehensive and detailed report on the status of ECGRA's loan portfolio — speci-

cally, the performance of each loan, their delinquency and collectability status.

The latest ECGRA audit indicates the sum of ECGRA's loan agreements — roughly \$9.5 million — and the combined outstanding principal balance — about \$7.9 million — but it doesn't indicate how loan recipients, particularly lending institutions, invest that loan.

For example, ECGRA in 2016 entered into a \$1 million loan agreement with Bridgeway Capital, a Pittsburgh-based community development financial institution.

The CDFI, which also has an Erie

See **AUDIT**, Page 5A

## Audit

Continued from Page 1A

office, leverages that funding and issues loans to local businesses, predominantly minority-owned businesses in distressed areas that can't access capital on their own.

The Davis administration has noted that ECGRA's audits don't identify those recipient businesses or the amount that Bridgeway Capital loans out to them and at what interest rate.

"If we're giving gaming revenue to private institutions like Bridgeway and others, we want accountability of that money," Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll said. "We want to know how much has been deployed by Bridgeway and whether Bridgeway has taken money off the top."

Davis reiterated this point during a recent interview with Talk Erie, suggesting ECGRA could be issuing a loan to a lender institution at 0 to 1% interest, and that institution, in turn,

**"If we're giving gaming revenue to private institutions like Bridgeway and others, we want accountability of that money. We want to know how much has been deployed by Bridgeway and whether Bridgeway has taken money off the top."**

**Chris Carroll**  
Erie County Public Information Officer

could be loaning that money out at "exorbitant rates."

"How is that not viewed as predatory?" Davis asked.

**Finance Committee chairman: CDFIs are investment in community**

Wood told the Times-News that Maher Duessel doesn't analyze how lending institutions like Bridgeway Capital invest because those decisions are made by the Bridgeway Capital staff.

Wood said ECGRA insulates itself

from those decisions and instead invests in the "established process" of Bridgeway Capital as a longstanding and reputable CDFI, an economic development bank that has the staff, resources and know-how to analyze bank loans and screen recipients.

Indeed, Bridgeway Capital Communications Director Katherine Chamberlain told the Times-News that CDFIs have been a "part of the national financial ecosystem for over 50 years."

Moreover, she said, Bridgeway Capital, like other CDFIs, is certified and regulated by the U.S. Treasury Depart-

ment.

"In its 34-year history, Bridgeway has always repaid 100% of the principal of the loan capital lent to us by public and private sources, plus interest," she stated.

Erie County Councilmember Rock Copeland, who serves as finance committee chairman, further defended CDFIs, telling the Times-News that "these are the kinds of organizations we need in Erie to recognize small businesses and to give them opportunities to grow."

"A (CDFI) is a bank that doesn't operate under the normal parameters of a bank where they're loaning to realize a return on investment on themselves," he said. "They're loaning on a return on investment for the community."

"ECGRA builds communities and builds capacity in our communities to do more," he added.

Wood said ECGRA staff will provide the administration the requested information on the loan recipients.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on X @BTNRao.

# Grants

Continued from Page 1A

power to transform neighborhoods creating vibrant, inclusive spaces with long lasting impacts."

## St. Martin Center, Boys & Girls Club of Erie among grant recipients

Grant recipients included the St. Martin Center Inc., which received \$75,000. CEO David Gonzalez said the money will go toward critical repairs of the center's Parade Street facility roof.

"Because of this generous grant, we will be able to continue providing services ... to just about a thousand individuals every month that come through our doors for rent and food or mortgage, financial literacy, etc.," Gonzalez said.

He added that the funding enabled the center to leverage and attract other funds.

"It really was the seed cornerstone funding," he said. "We've been able to obviously put some of our monies in and fundraise the rest. So that we have all the funds for our roof, which comes out to be about \$140,000."

Another grant recipient was the Boys & Girls Club of Erie, which received \$70,000. Director John Popoff said the money will go toward major renovations of the center's swimming pool.

"It has been a longstanding tradition at the club's 129-year history to have a swimming pool on site and to offer an aquatics program to its members," he said. "The aquatics program at the club has taught hundreds of members basic water safety, swim lessons, competitive swimming, and also recreational open swims."

"Through this grant, ECGRA has allowed future club members the opportunity to participate in a club's long-

## ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

# Group awards nearly \$2M to community facilities

A.J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority on Tuesday awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to 19 community facilities across the county.

The \$1.6 million in grant money, part of ECGRA's Building a Better Future program, aims to support capital improvements, programming and equipment at publicly accessible community centers. These centers provide Erie County residents with basic health and well-being, job training, mentoring, educational, nutrition and a host of other benefits, according to an ECGRA news release.

"The critical role that community facilities play in the community and economic development of a region cannot be overstated," ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood stated in the release.

"Serving as a hub spot for social, educational, cultural and recreational activities, these facilities have the

See GRANTS, Page 3A



The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority awarded \$1.6 million in grants to 19 community facilities. A check presentation, shown here, was held on Feb. 13 at the Mercy Anchor Community Center. A.J. RAO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

standing aquatics program," he added. "There is a large population of youth without access to a swimming pool, aquatics program, or basic water safety instruction. The club is a unique offering and is the only urban-centered facility which operates solely for the youth of our community."

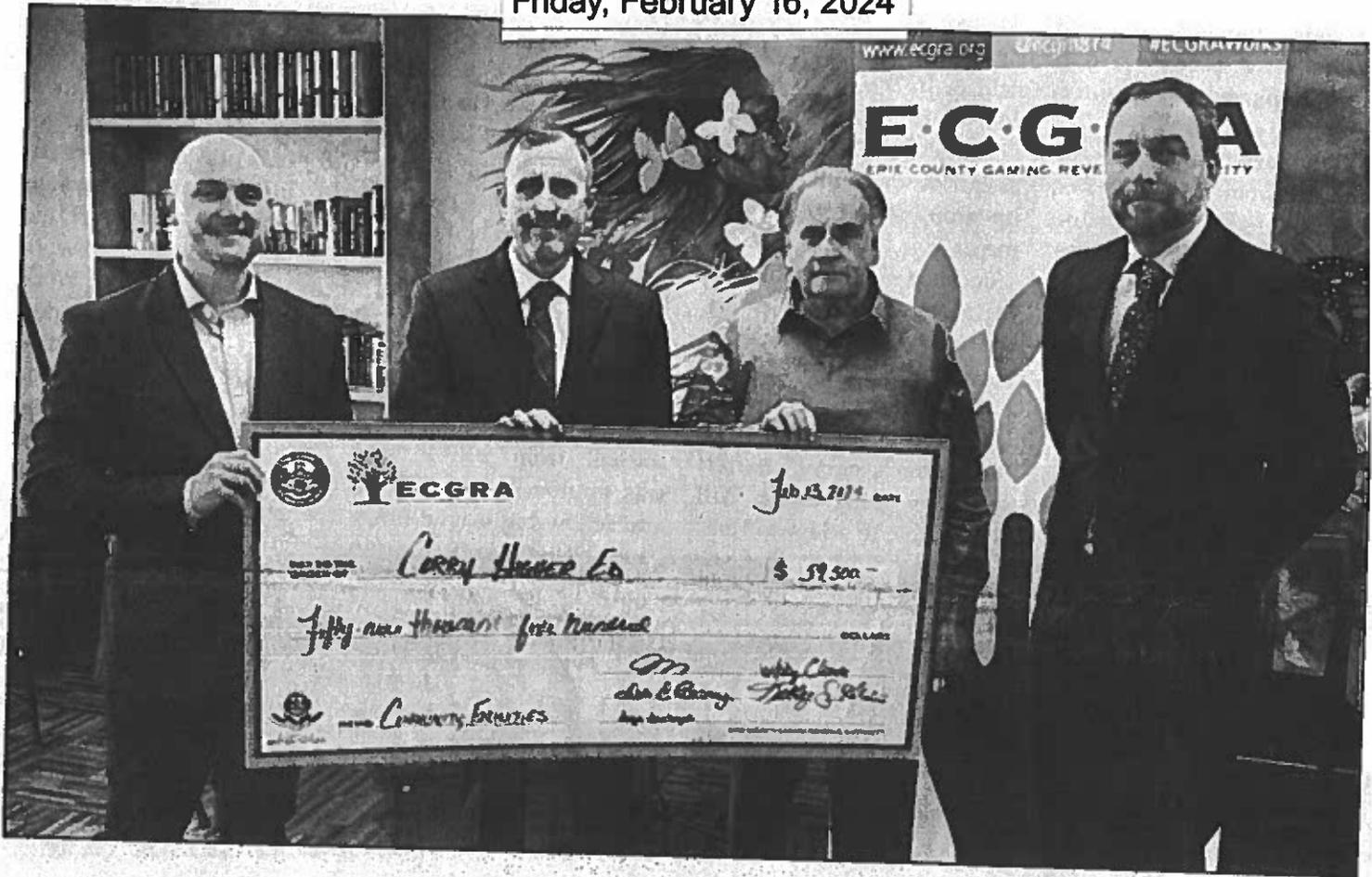
### List of grant recipients

- Booker T. Washington Center: \$125,000
- Borough of Edinboro: \$25,000

- Boys & Girls Club of Erie: \$70,000
- Community Shelter Services: \$105,694
- Corry Higher Education Council: \$59,500
- Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation: \$125,000
- Edinboro Market: \$125,000
- GECAC: \$13,680
- Inner-City Neighborhood Art House: \$125,000
- International Institute of Erie: \$125,000
- John F. Kennedy Center: \$125,000

- Journey: Healing Together: \$25,000
  - Martin Luther King Center: \$125,000
  - Mercy Center for Women: \$100,000
  - Mercy Hilltop Center: \$99,000
  - Northwestern Community Youth Center: \$18,500
  - Sarah A. Reed Children's Center: \$86,000
  - St. Martin Center, Inc.: \$75,000
  - YMCA of Corry: \$97,331
- A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gan-nett.com](mailto:arao@gan-nett.com). Follow him on X @ETNRao.

Friday, February 16, 2024



Contributed photo

## Hi-Ed, YMCA receive grants

On Feb. 13, Dr. Matthew Platz (second from left), executive director of the Corry Higher Education Council, met with representatives of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) to receive a check for \$59,500 for the Corry Higher Education Council. Platz said the funds were used to cover the cost of a new rubber roof that was installed in September 2023. The YMCA of Corry also received an ECGRA grant. Lisa Cox, associate executive director of the Y, said the \$97,331 grant will be utilized to assist the aging building with infrastructure needs. Of ECGRA's 19 grants, totaling \$1,649,905, \$1,324,374 was granted to entities within the city of Erie, \$156,831 to Corry, \$150,000 to Edinboro and \$18,500 to Albion.

# Union City moves forward with Devereaux Park Project

BY MARYANN MOOK  
Correspondent

Union City Borough Council approved several agenda items during its meeting on Monday, including an engineering agreement for development at Devereaux Park and advertising a proposed animal ordinance.

Council approved signing an agreement with the EADS Group for engineering services for the Devereaux Park Project, after the borough's solicitor reviews the agreement.

The Devereaux Park Project includes an observation deck on French Creek, placing benches in the park and making part of a sidewalk that is ADA accessible.

The project is part of the borough's French Creek Trail Plan and its Comprehensive Plan. The borough wants to develop a nature trail to enhance the natural resource and maintain the green and sustainable characteristic of French Creek as a community asset.

"It's a project we've been working on for two years,

so we're looking forward to getting it done this year," Borough Manager Cindy Wells said.

Funding for the project comes from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA).

In other business, after discussing fines for violations, Council approved advertising a proposed animal ordinance.

The proposed ordinance sets regulations on animal leash laws, refuse and noise. It also includes a section on fees and penalties and will be known as the Borough of Union City Animal Safety and Sanitation Ordinance. Council is expected to vote on the ordinance during its March 4 meeting.

Council also approved scheduling a public hearing and advertising a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding solar energy panels. The hearing will be held on March 18. Wells said the Union Area Planning Commission and the Erie County Depart-

ment of Planning have given Council their approval for the amendments.

A retroactive motion to change the amount of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Strategic Plan match was approved. The motion changes the previously approved amount of the match from \$5,500 to \$6,195. The strategic plan focuses on improvements to the city building and plans for the future of borough employees.

A retroactive motion to proceed with engineering for the 2022 and 2023 Community Development Block Grants was approved. The borough is required to pay for engineering for an ADA ramp grant and would be reimbursed for the engineering on the Miles Street sidewalk grant. Council previously agreed to move forward with the engineering even though the project would not start until 2025.

The sidewalk grant would be for the sidewalk on the east side of Miles Street.

◀ See Project, P.2

## Project

(Continued from front page)

The resignation of Lindsey Troyer from the Parks and Recreation Commission was accepted, effective immediately, and Samantha Day was appointed to fill the remainder of the term that expires Dec. 31.

Council tabled a motion to accept or reject bids for the Willow Street At-Risk Bridge Project because the bids were too high. Bids

came in at about \$130,000 higher than the amount originally planned.

Council also approved applying for a grant with the DCNR Rivers Conservation and Development if all property and grant requirements are met.

In another matter, Council asked Streets Supervisor Bob Phillips to get prices for various streets for seal coating and paving. The list of streets will be presented at Council's March 4 meeting.

# Davis critic accuses county executive of assault

A.J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Erie man's contentious relationship with Erie County Executive Brenton Davis has reached a new level.

Jay Breneman, a former Erie County Council chairman, a Pennsylvania State Police instructor and Erie School Board president, has accused Davis of



Breneman

See ASSAULT, Page 2A

## Assault

Continued from Page 1A

physically assaulting him during a meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Board of Directors, held at Penn State Behrend, on the morning of Feb. 15.

Breneman, an ardent critic of Davis, claims the county executive, while exiting the meeting, deliberately elbowed him in the head, causing redness and soreness to his left ear.

"He hit me in my left ear," Breneman told the Erie Times-News. "I didn't really know how to react. I wasn't expecting to get assaulted by someone in that setting."

Breneman, who said he was left "stunned," reported the incident to Behrend campus police on Feb. 16.

Pennsylvania State Police confirmed Monday they are investigating the matter.

### County public information officer says no assault occurred

The meeting, which drew several in-person attendees, many of whom sought to defend ECGRA from recent public criticism made by Davis, was also being shown live via Zoom.

ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood said the meeting was recorded but the screen, during the incident, was not showing the audience at the time.

Wood said Behrend campus police also had a plainclothes officer seated at the meeting at ECGRA's request.



Davis

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 | ERIE TIMES-NEWS



Attendees are shown at the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 15. J. RAO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

utive in April, when an Erie woman accused Davis of physically abusing her two minor children. Davis has denied the allegations.

When Breneman returned to his seat and the public comments ended, Davis, who was seated in the front row, stood up to address the board. Upon finishing his remarks, Davis picked up a banker's box full of folders and documents next to his seat and walked toward the exit.

Breneman claims Davis, along the way, passed by his seat and elbowed him in the head.

Former ECGRA Chairman Dave Sample, who was seated next to Breneman, said he witnessed the incident.

"Jay and I were sitting side-by-side in the last row, and out of the corner of my eye, I saw (Davis) throw an elbow into the side of Jay's head," Sample said. "There was absolutely no reason for (Davis) to be that close to Jay. It was blatant."

Breneman, 41, an Army veteran who's also been dealing with the effects of long COVID, said he continues to have neck problems from his military service and sensitivity on his head due to his illness. He said the incident left the side of his head sore for days.

As the curator of a satirical Facebook page and website that have lampooned Davis stretching back to his campaign in 2021, Breneman said he expected the county executive to be angry at him but added he "didn't expect a physical assault."

"Who would expect a public official to do this?" he said. "I think the fact that he would respond to an abuse allegation with physical abuse is very telling of who he is."

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on X @ETNRao.

### Witness says incident was 'blatant'

Breneman, who attended the meeting at 5240 Knowledge Parkway on the Behrend campus, said he was there as a member of the public and was seated by the aisle in the last row of the public seating area.

Breneman, who previously served as County Council liaison to ECGRA, spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting, defending ECGRA from what he described as Davis' "bullying" tactics.

He concluded his remarks by calling Davis a "child abuser," a reference to allegations made against the county executive.

The Erie Times-News reached out to Behrend campus police but could not confirm whether the officer witnessed the incident.

Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll sent the following statement to the Times-News on Monday:

"We have no comment at this time due to a pending investigation, except to say the alleged incident never occurred in any way, shape or form. The meeting was public, on camera, live on Zoom, with a police presence in the room. We're confident that this investigation will prove this allegation false."

## 2023 Community Facilities Program Budget

**Project Sponsor: Harvest 912**

**Project Name: Missing In Community - A Veteran Outreach Program**

Category	Amount Requested from ECGRA	Cash Match	Narrative	Total
<b>ATV Vehicle</b>	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	A weatherized offroad vehicle is required to access homeless encampments to deliver supplies, pack out garbage, bring in volunteer medical providers Cash match from dealer donation/manufacture rebates	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Medical, Hygeine, Camping Supplies</b>	\$ 3,250.00	\$ -	Medical Kits - 10 @ \$55= \$550.00 Extra medical supplies (antifungals, iodine swabs)=\$270.00 Foot Care Kits - 50 @ \$8= \$400.00 Hygeine Kits -100 @ 36.40 = \$364.00 Hygeine Kits (period/women) - 50@3=\$150.00 Camping supplies (waste bags,garbage bags, gaiters, ponchos, blankets, hats, gloves, etc)=\$1971.00 Cash match funded by donation from Elevate Church	\$ 3,250.00
<b>Boots &amp; Socks</b>	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	50 Pairs boots; 100 pairs socks Cash match though in-kind donation - Carolina Shoe Co sponsorship	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Backpacks</b>	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	Large miliary backpacks Cash match funded by donations from Elevate Church and Nuova Aurora club	\$ 1,250.00
<b><u>Totals</u></b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>

Youth Leadership Institute of Erie  
ECGRA Loan  
Proposed Repayment Schedule 11/16/2023

Balance Due     \$ 108,552.00

Year 1	Payment	Balance
January 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 107,647.40
February 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 106,742.80
March 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 105,838.20
April 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 104,933.60
May 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 104,029.00
June 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 103,124.40
July 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 102,219.80
August 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 101,315.20
September 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 100,410.60
October 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 99,506.00
November 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 98,601.40
December 2024	\$ 904.60	\$ 97,696.80

Year 2	Payment	Balance
January 2025	1163.06	\$ 96,533.74
February 2025	1163.06	\$ 95,370.68
March 2025	1163.06	\$ 94,207.62
April 2025	1163.06	\$ 93,044.56
May 2025	1163.06	\$ 91,881.50
June 2025	1163.06	\$ 90,718.44
July 2025	1163.06	\$ 89,555.38
August 2025	1163.06	\$ 88,392.32
September 2025	1163.06	\$ 87,229.26
October 2025	1163.06	\$ 86,066.20
November 2025	1163.06	\$ 84,903.14
December 2025	1163.06	\$ 83,740.08

Year 3	Payment	Balance
January 2026	1395.67	\$ 82,344.41
February 2026	1395.67	\$ 80,948.74
March 2026	1395.67	\$ 79,553.07
April 2026	1395.67	\$ 78,157.40
May 2026	1395.67	\$ 76,761.73
June 2026	1395.67	\$ 75,366.06
July 2026	1395.67	\$ 73,970.39
August 2026	1395.67	\$ 72,574.72
September 2026	1395.67	\$ 71,179.05

October 2026	1395.67	\$	69,783.38
November 2026	1395.67	\$	68,387.71
December 2026	1395.67	\$	66,992.04

Year 4

January 2027	1860.89	\$	65,131.15
February 2027	1860.89	\$	63,270.26
March 2027	1860.89	\$	61,409.37
April 2027	1860.89	\$	59,548.48
May 2027	1860.89	\$	57,687.59
June 2027	1860.89	\$	55,826.70
July 2027	1860.89	\$	53,965.81
August 2027	1860.89	\$	52,104.92
September 2027	1860.89	\$	50,244.03
October 2027	1860.89	\$	48,383.14
November 2027	1860.89	\$	46,522.25
December 2027	1860.89	\$	44,661.36

Year 5

January 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	40,939.58
February 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	37,217.80
March 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	33,496.02
April 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	29,774.24
May 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	26,052.46
June 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	22,330.68
July 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	18,608.90
August 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	14,887.12
September 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	11,165.34
October 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	7,443.56
November 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	3,721.78
December 2028	\$	3,721.78	\$	(0.00)

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 3, 2024

### Resolution to adopt the Erie City Moms Pilot Project

Whereas, ECGRA was formed to oversee and administer the investment and distribution of gaming funds in Erie County, Pennsylvania;

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of local government, businesses, and citizen groups working together in a public-private partnership to address neighborhood renewal;

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law recognizes that the unavailability of private credit sources in areas needing redevelopment is detrimental to cities in the Commonwealth;

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law states expressly that entities like ECGRA may have as one of its purposes the alleviation or elimination of blight;

Whereas, ECGRA's Strategic Plan recognizes that basic services like housing and the resulting aesthetic improvements upon neighborhoods are important factors in achieving community satisfaction;

Whereas, ECGRA believes, as a good steward of the Gaming Funds, that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Erie County to pilot an unproven concept such as neighborhood renewal in a specified geographic area, to learn from the pilot program, refine it and deliberate on its merits before offering eligible neighborhood renewal associations throughout Erie County the opportunity to implement the refined and then proven neighborhood renewal program;

Whereas, eligible **community organizations** concerned with the proactive revitalization of respective geographic areas are a regional asset to be supported at a later date if deemed successful by a pilot project;

Whereas, ECGRA has selected **ERIE CITY MOMS, INC. (ECM)** to launch said pilot concept with an operational grant of **\$75,000**, which will be matched 1-1 by **ERIE CITY MOMS, INC.** to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

Whereas, ECGRA has selected **ERIE CITY MOMS, INC.** to partner with on launching a **homeownership initiative for single parents** to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "B";

Whereas, ECGRA declares the following milestones to be measured and analyzed as part of the pilot project:

1. **The successful rehabilitation of a blighted, two-unit residential building located at 226 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street in the city of Erie suitable for two families. The project will receive a rental license from the city of Erie.**
2. **The successful completion of a homebuyer education program by two initial participants including credit repair, first-time homebuying, home maintenance, and other support services.**
3. **Building of credit and savings accounts to be used for a down payment on the purchase of a house.**
4. **Home purchase by graduate of program within 18 months.**
5. **Creation of a safety and quality of life checklist that includes items such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, age-appropriate child safety hardware, and a washer/dryer.**

Whereas, ECM shall report to ECGRA within 12 months as to the successes, failures and obstacles encountered so that ECGRA may determine whether to refine the program prior to considering whether to offer the program to **eligible neighborhood development corporations or social service agencies** throughout Erie County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to adopt the **ERIE CITY MOMS, INC.** pilot project to the extent outlined in this document and attachments.

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

This resolution was passed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2024 by a vote of \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

-----  
Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
March 21, 2024

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary ECGRA

## 2024 Pilot Grant Program Budget

<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Erie City Moms</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Making Homeownership Accessible to Erie's Mother Figures</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Funds Requested from ECGRA</b>	<b>Funds Contributed by Sponsor</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Personnel (Maximum 15% of ECGRA grant)</b>	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 19,600.00	Mentoring Director, Office Manager, H.O.M.E. Logistics Coordinator	\$ 30,850.00
<b>Professional Services</b>				\$ -
<b>Construction</b>		\$ 31,950.00	New roof, gutters, soffit, fascia completed 12/2023 using partial grant from Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie	\$ 31,950.00
<b>Materials (to be installed by donated labor)</b>	\$ 63,750.00	\$ 56,360.00	HVAC systems for floors 1 and 2: \$30,000 siding and paint: \$20,000 drywall and supplies: \$10,000 interior and exterior doors: \$10,000 plumbing: \$10,000 electrical: \$10,000 insulation: \$6,000 flooring: \$15,000 safety and security system: \$5,000	\$ 120,110.00
<b>Supplies</b>		\$ 4,000.00	video series documenting renovation created by Revox Media: \$3,000 H.O.M.E. brochure and application packet: 1,000	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Other</b>		\$ 2,280.00	Commercial fire and general liability insurance	\$ 2,280.00
<b>Other</b>		\$ 7,853.09	Purchase of house	\$ 7,853.09
<b>Other</b>		\$ 1,000.00	Moving services for mother figures	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Other</b>		\$ 10,000.00	Savings "match" for mother figures	\$ 10,000.00
<b>In Kind</b>			\$3,000 in closing costs donated by Select Settlement	\$ -
<b>In Kind</b>			\$8,700 in roofing materials donated by Presta Supply	\$ -
<b>In Kind</b>			\$10,000 in cleaning services donated by Rainbow Restoration	\$ -
<b>In Kind</b>			\$6,499 in windows donated by Seaway Manufacturing	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 133,043.09		\$ 208,043.09
<b>In-kind services and materials total \$28,199</b>				

## H.O.M.E Home Ownership for Mothers in Erie

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### *Pilot Project Grant Program*

#### ***Erie City Moms Inc.***

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Mrs. Amanda P. Burlingham  
650 East Ave.  
Erie, PA 16503

ErieCityMoms@gmail.com  
O: 814-504-3037  
M: 814-504-3037

#### ***Mrs. Amanda P. Burlingham***

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707 W. 38th Street  
#227  
Erie, PA 16508

APBurlingham@outlook.com  
O: 814-504-3037  
M: 814-504-3037

# Application Form

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## *Eligibility*

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### **Qualifiers\***

All must apply in order to be eligible.

- Applicant is in good standing with ECGRA's reporting requirements to date
- Applicant is in good standing with the IRS and state and local taxing bodies
- Applicant's headquarters is located in Erie County
- Applicant is 501(c)(3), a municipal authority, or a school district
- Applicant will be the recipient of the grant. (Pass through grants are not permissible.)
- Applicant is current on payment of any mandated workers compensation.
- Applicant is current on payment of unemployment or other required employee related insurances.
- Applicant's real estate taxes are not delinquent.

### **Disqualifiers**

If any apply, your organization is not eligible.

## *Project Information*

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### **Project Name\***

H.O.M.E Home Ownership for Mothers in Erie

### **Brief Project Summary\***

Erie City Moms (ECM) is piloting a homeowner pipeline program that provides Mothers and their families a safe, low-rent place to live while being mentored through financial literacy, challenges to homeownership, and the first-time homebuying process.

### **Goals (broad) and Objectives (specific) of the project\***

Founded through a grassroots effort to foster a caring community surrounding all mothers, ECM supports, uplifts, and champions mother figures from all walks of life. ECM convenes up to 30 Moms Groups annually across Erie's most disinvested neighborhoods and conducts mentoring, advocacy, basic needs, and housing initiatives to help propel Mother figures forward. These radical investments in Erie's mothers not only transform women but also the people they love and the spaces where they live, work, serve, worship, and play.

In order to truly alleviate housing instability and increase independence, the goal of ECM's Housing Team has expanded from helping Moms tackle home safety and quality-of-life issues to bolstering any mother figure who aspires to homeownership. To accomplish this most effectively (objectives), ECM purchased and has begun renovating a blighted 2,624 square-foot property at 226 East 10th Street in Erie. This two-unit

residence will be used to house qualifying families who are preparing for homeownership and within approximately 18 months, transition them into a home of their own anywhere in Erie County.

ECGRA funding will support proper renovations to the house and its garage. This includes exterior paint and siding, new doors and windows, and heating and ventilation systems for both apartments—necessary improvements to ensure the home is clean, warm, and dry for its first tenants; set to move in early summer 2024.

## Project Narrative\*

Describe your project in detail including the problem you are addressing and what you will do to solve that problem.

ECM launched its first Moms Group, Moms Night Out (MNO), in 2016 on Erie's lower Eastside with a small group of diverse moms, grandmas, and aunts committed to building a community together. ECM's second and third Moms groups, Mingle with Moms (Mingle), began in 2019 when ECM was awarded the distinguished designation of a United Way Community School Partner. All Moms Groups include free dinner, childcare, transportation if needed, a story of hope and resiliency, and connections to healthy community and local resources. ECM's initiatives also include The Good Friend Program, one-on-one and group mentoring focused on braving maternal wellbeing, increasing social capital, gaining financial literacy, building soft and occupational skills, and improving caregiving skills.

Since its inception, ECM has built relationships with and advocated on behalf of more than 750 diverse mother figures and 2,250 children, many struggling with patterns of housing insecurity. In response, in 2021, ECM assembled a formal Housing Team comprised of realtors, business leaders, lawyers, contractors, and churches to tackle many home safety and quality-of-life issues for ECM members who attend MNO/Mingle. A few tactics ECM has used to lift up mothers and children who are experiencing housing insecurity are as follows:

- Secure and pay for apartment rental.
- Educate and equip mothers in the following topics: Financial literacy (including credit repair), home maintenance, first-time home buying, home ownership, physical and mental health services as needed, and community support systems/services.
- Help moms invest in the community/neighborhood they live in through community events and volunteerism.
- Create a safety and quality of life checklist that includes items, such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, age-appropriate child safety hardware, and a washer and dryer.
- Establish relationships with quality landlords.

As needs increased, ECM's Housing Team expanded its goals to help moms attain homeownership—true housing security.

The house at 226 East 10th Street is on the bus line, and just two blocks from the heart of downtown. It's a short distance from countless employers, health care providers, child care providers, recreational opportunities for our moms, and educational opportunities for moms and their children. The residence is two blocks south of Community School Partner Pfeiffer-Burleigh, a resource for anyone who lives in the area. It's also directly across the street from the Neighborhood Art House and one block from Erie City Mission's Urban University, both of which offer after-school and summer programming. Our neighbors to the west include Bethany Outreach, Erie County Community College, St. Benedict Education Center, Michael Making Lives Better, and the future Erie Bank Financial Education Center. The house is close to a domestic violence shelter and the backyard connects to SafeNet's Big Back Yard, separated only by a chain link fence.

Each floor of 226 East 10th Street—one 3-bedroom and one 4-bedroom—will serve as a short-term launchpad where moms will continue to build their credit and saving accounts. Upon entering into a rental contract, the mom (tenant) will also sign a mentoring agreement to become an active member of The Good

Friend Program and receive life coaching and mentoring as determined by her goals and homeowner knowledge. She will pay below fair-market-rate rent to ECM who will then deposit at least 50% of her monthly rent into a designated savings account. Tenants are projected to save a minimum of \$10,000 while living at the East 10th Street home. After 18 months, the moms will be transitioned to ECM's realtors who will assist in the permanent housing search and ensure that moms access all first-time homebuyer aids. At the end of the lease, the mom and her family will move out, using the funds from the designated savings account to cover the down payment and closing costs on the Erie County home. ECM will then review the success of the first tenant, make the appropriate adjustments to the process, and transition another mom and her family into the rental unit.

## Project Justification\*

Describe why the pilot project is important and necessary (short and long term) to Erie County. Please provide evidence, research, and surveys documenting the problems. Standalone documents may be uploaded.

ECM perpetually witnesses patterns of housing insecurity for mothers who do not have adequate long-term support. Local and federal statistics affirm these patterns. In 2022, the Erie County Single Point in Time Count reported more than 158 families, defined as at least one adult with children, were experiencing homelessness. Some circumstances that ECM has confronted include, but are not limited to:

- Mothers who are homeless. Homelessness is defined as living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, or in transitional housing; exiting an institution where an individual temporarily resided or fleeing domestic violence with no alternative housing; staying in a motel, or living in a doubled-up situation (with others to share costs). When homeless, mothers are typically unable to work because of the stress and kids most likely miss school. Homelessness is not a human services issue, it is an economic development crisis today and for future generations.
- Mothers living in housing with negligent or inappropriate landlords. Some landlords do not properly maintain their properties, resulting in dangerous and unsanitary residences. Others have made inappropriate demands or solicitations to the women who reside in the household. On several occasions, ECM has deemed that the landlordship of a residence has compromised the safety of the mother and children of the residence and assisted in notifying the appropriate authorities.
- Erie has a lack of available, quality rentals with sufficient bedrooms for families. Fair market rent is much higher than what low-income families can maintain for long. If the property is affordable, there are often questions about the safety of the residence or neighborhood. According to a study conducted by Ruby Home, rents across the country have increased 72% since 1960—three times faster than the average income.
- While there are many resources available, there is a lack of long-term support systems for sustainable housing security. Many housing assistance programs are limited to 1-3 months and do not provide the relational support that helps a woman gain lasting independence.

Below are two case studies presenting how ECMs work in housing, combined with mentoring via The Good Friend Program, has helped change the trajectory of ECM members and their families which further explains the need for this pilot in our community.

**CASE STUDY #1—AM:** When we first heard about her, AM was pregnant and homeless, sleeping between her truck and one of our leader's couches. In fall 2016, AM secured a job and found an apartment to share with her then-infant and elementary-age daughter. ECMs provided furniture and groceries, and an invite to join MNO. AM was an active Moms Group member and connected with our Good Friends who walked with her through several job changes, helping her to apply for new opportunities and prepare for interviews. Over five years and many hurdles, her mentors invested in her—including a local realtor who taught her how to rebuild her credit and save a downpayment, and journeyed with her through the first-time homebuying process. AM is now a first-generation Black single mother homeowner leading in her community and leaving a legacy for her children. If our HOME program existed, AM could have been in a home at least one year earlier.

**CASE STUDY #2—JB:** JB and her kids began attending Moms Groups fall 2021. A stay-at-home mom, she was raising four kids alone and was pregnant. She had just been evicted from her apartment because the landlord got a great offer and chose to sell on a whim. JB and her children spent the next six months living in various shelters. It's worth noting that JB was evicted from one shelter while in the hospital after delivering her baby. Our Good Friend Program Director helped JB identify that she could build self-sufficiency and long-term stability if she finished the nursing degree she started 10 years ago. However, because she was homeless, it was impossible as most of JB's time was spent navigating complex systems and handling crises. Our Good Friend Program Director paired her with resources and community leaders committed to helping her reach her goals long-term. Good Friends at Coldwell Banker rented JB a quality, affordable apartment. To allow time to get on her feet, 100% of her June-January rent was paid by other Good Friends. JB is currently working 65 hours per week as a nursing technician and plans soon to return to finish that degree. As JB continues to work toward her goals of financial independence, attaining work history, improving her credit score, and building her savings, she will be an excellent candidate for our HOME program.

ECM's work is preventative and impacts the local economy. When an urban mother is stable and thriving, she has a positive social and economic impact on nearly every arena of her life including her children, their inner-city school, her workplace, their neighborhood, and the city and region. At MNO and Mingle, ECMs brings in speakers on topics related to areas of personal and professional growth that mothers in high-risk populations typically do not have access to. We foster a community that uplifts and supports women no matter their past or current circumstances and build lasting, long-term relationships with women from diverse backgrounds. As those relationships strengthen and trust grows, mothers naturally connect to a leader or mentor. The Good Friend Program, our one-on-one and group mentoring initiative, focuses on issues related to independence and self-sufficiency from the pursuit of education to character and skills development to building social capital. All of this is free to any motivated mother figure.

Erie City Moms' work also relates to the social determinants of health (SDOH), non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. Issues of income, education, and job security impact an individual's short- and long-term well-being. This is also true for housing. From the neighborhood where someone lives to the cost of their rent to the stability of their home, housing has significant implications for a mother's physical and mental health which of course impacts her ability to work, care for her children, and tend to her family and community-at-large determining, then, whether mother is a productive member of society. Housing factors, and mother's overall well-being, of course, impact a child's behavior, ability to learn and grow at pace with their peers, and outlook for the future. Understanding the correlation between housing security and life trajectory is not difficult.

Encouraging and catalyzing homeownership as a means to housing stability for qualifying urban Mother figures begins by partnering to renovate 226 East 10th Street. Together, we can support matriarchs to:

- Contribute to the local tax base and economy in new ways
- Provide stability and security for a family, catalyzing new educational, business, and personal growth
- Build wealth for investments in new dreams, such as education, a business, retirement, and more
- Strengthen neighborhoods, schools, and local businesses
- Leave a legacy for the next generation

## **Do you anticipate other funding sources?\***

Please discuss your matching fund sources and financing partners.

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie is providing \$23,700 in grant funds to the project. Current individual investors are contributing \$85,000 and include several well-known business leaders who have advised and funded ECM's housing initiative for years, plus one local church. Seaway Manufacturing Corporation is donating all 39 windows. Other local businesses are donating contracted services, including Select Settlement, Inc., and Attorney John Mir who provided real estate closing services pro-bono. Rainbow Restoration donated nearly \$10,000 in cleaning and sanitizing services, architect Jason Wieczorek consulted pro-bono on the updated floor plan, and Knorr Electric is donating a portion of labor. As of November 10,

more than 284 volunteer hours valued at \$8,505 have been invested in the renovations, including volunteers from Erie Bank and Erie First Assembly and time invested by our mother figures–prospective tenants.

## Project Benefits\*

Please describe who will benefit and how. Will specific groups be targeted or served?

This pilot will specifically meet the housing stability needs of mothers and their families in urban Erie. Men outrank women as homeowners both locally and nationally. This is for many reasons, including the gender wage gap, inequality in parenting as 70% of single parents are single mothers, lack of access to fair lending practices, and general misinformation and lack of confidence among female prospective homeowners. Erie City Moms (ECM) has served more than 750 Mother figures and 2,250 children since 2016 in Erie's most impoverished zip codes. Many of these Mothers are working and dream of homeownership but can't attain it because they are rent-poor. Another subsection is single mothers and their children living in poverty. Today in Erie, 45.2% of single mothers and their children and another 8.4% of married moms and their kids are living in poverty, most paying Erie's median rent of \$1,000 for substandard apartments. ECM's Moms Groups take place in the zip codes of 16503 and 16511 where, according to Erie Vital Signs, 42.4% and 15.3% of residents live below poverty level, respectively, putting them at high risk for homelessness. Black single mothers and their children make up the highest percentage of Erie's homeless population; more than half of our mother figures are Black, Hispanic, or biracial, and are the most underrepresented group among homeowners.

## Amount Requested from ECGRA\*

\$75,000.00

## Project Budget\*

Please click here to download a budget form

[Erie City Moms 2023 HOME Pilot Program Budget.xlsx](#)

## Long term plans\*

Is there a plan to continue the project? How will you sustain the project financially and administratively?

After assessing the success of the pilot and as we raise funds through rent (albeit low) and community partners, we will hire a program manager who will assist in creating a strategic plan for growth for this project, oversee acquiring and rehabilitation of future properties, coordinate the Housing and Real Estate Teams, and work in tandem with the director of The Good Friend Program for the long-term success of our tenants. Plans also include partnering on grants and innovative homeownership projects with local neighborhood revitalization groups, other nonprofits, and businesses.

## Project Partners\*

Describe project partners and how they will be involved.

Although this program is not a neighborhood revitalization initiative, ECM is consulting with the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network regarding the structure of the successful Genesis Home program that also prepares Erie families for home ownership. Other current and potential partners include Coldwell Banker, Realtors, Black Wall Street, St. Martin Center, and Erie Bank. We have met with Our West Bayfront and Bayfront East Side Taskforce about the possibility of collaborating.

## Project Support\*

Provide evidence of project support within the community. (Letters of support, resolutions, memoranda of understanding, etc. can be uploaded at the end of the application.)

See attached Reference Hilling Pfeffer Insurance and Reference Joe Bizarro

## Qualifications and Experience\*

Description of the qualifications and experience of the project administrators and project leaders.

Erie City Moms Founder and Director Amanda Patterson Burlingham has a history of service in northwestern Pennsylvania beginning in 2001 when she moved from Butler, Pa., to work at United Way of Erie County. An early graduate of the Erie Ambassador program of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, founding member of Young Erie Professionals, and eager volunteer and board member, she quickly fell in love with her new hometown. In 2005, Amanda launched a consulting company combining her passion for people and the region with her expertise in communications and nonprofit management. While her focus has since shifted to the growth and sustainability of Erie City Moms, many of her previous clients are still notably transforming our community, including Erie County Community College, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Emma's Footprints, ServErie, and Stairways Behavioral Health. Amanda started Erie City Moms in 2016 to bring racially, culturally, and socially diverse Mother figures, their families, and their allies together to learn and grow with and from each other. The organization hosts 20 Moms groups on Erie's lower eastside, offers one-on-one and group mentoring, and fosters life-giving community that supports, uplifts, and champions Mother figures from all walks of life. In recognition of her commitment to underserved Mothers, Amanda was named a "Bridge to Hope and Healing" in May 2020 and received the Hero of Hope Award presented by the Achievement Center. In 2019, she was honored as a Mercy Center Woman Making History. Amanda and her husband, Joel, and their four children have lived in the city of Erie since 2001. Together, they volunteer at Erie City Moms.

Volunteer Project Manager Catherine Fox has been a successful real estate investor and "flipper" for 20+ years and a Coldwell Banker Select Realtor since 2016. She is knowledgeable in home improvements and repairs and well-connected to local contractors, vendors, and investors. Catherine is currently a Fairview School District director and has served on numerous nonprofit boards since 2001 where she excels at keeping projects on pace and within budget. Catherine and her family have volunteered for and donated to Erie City Moms since 2018 in special events, fundraising, and homeownership mentoring.

Volunteer Site Supervisor Jim Schriefer operated Schriefer Remodeling for 40 years until he retired in 2023, previously registered with PA office of the Attorney General (PA055382). He has "flipped" over 15 houses as a project manager and construction worker and been on various construction teams for hurricane relief in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Missouri, as well as built houses in Africa, Jamaica, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Jim is a past employee of Habitat for Humanity where he served as site supervisor overseeing the building of six homes. While serving with The Upper Room, he trained and mentored homeless men in life skills and construction trades as they flipped a house. Jim is trained in lead abatement and is currently a certified renovator by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie in lead safety for renovation, repair, and painting. He has volunteered on Erie City Moms Housing Team since 2022.

Logistics Coordinator Darlene Cohen worked 20 years with The Plastek Group as a quality engineer responsible for creating, updating, and managing processes and communicating testing results to management and customers. She is also a seasoned small business owner with ample experience in day-to-day operations, vendor relations, fiscal responsibilities, human resources, management, and marketing. Darlene has volunteered with Erie City Moms since 2017 and is currently our part-time office manager. For the HOME pilot, she coordinates volunteer projects, maintains the budget and timeline, orders supplies and materials, ensures safety protocols are followed, documents processes and policies, and keeps the flow of communication moving between team members.

## Ability to Complete the Project\*

Describe your ability to complete the project within the allotted time.

We expect to have our first mom moved in by summer 2024. 226 East 10th Street was purchased in September by Erie City Moms from the previous homeowner as a blighted property. We immediately started renovations. With support from Councilman Chuck Nelson, an initial team of volunteers began the process of cleaning up the exterior of the house and garage, maintaining the lawn and shrubs, repairing fences, and clearing debris from the yard, driveway, and garage; Erie Bank and Erie First Assembly volunteers completed those jobs and their work has dramatically changed the appearance of the house. Next, we went to work inside the home. Vacant for more than two years, the house was a stopping point for countless homeless people and was filled with household items and human and food waste. Rainbow Restoration donated \$10,000 in services and together with our foreman and his crew, the hazardous contents of the house were removed from the basement up to the attic, including safely clearing all waste from the two bathrooms and two kitchens. Since architect Jason Wiczorek consulted pro bono on the updated floor plan, crews have begun to map out the rehab of the interior. Knorr Electric will soon begin the difficult task of rewiring the house and Seaway Windows will partner with our team to replace all 39 windows in the house. Thanks to a generous grant from the Redevelopment Authority and donated materials from Presta Supply, Leon Construction is removing and replacing the roof, gutters, and downspouts on the house and garage and will be finished by December 15. Progress on insulating, replumbing, and rebuilding the interior of the house will begin in the new year, as will installation of two new HVAC systems. Our board of directors, executive director, and housing team will continue consulting with the Sisters of St. Joseph, Erie Bank, and Coldwell Banker Select to finalize program criteria and start marketing it to our membership/prospective tenants. It's anticipated that the house will be ready for investor tours by spring when we will begin cleaning, install appliances, and prepare for initial landscaping jobs. We will plan a ribbon cutting and press conference for early summer and shortly after, select and move in our first tenants. Also see attached timeline.

## Timeline\*

Please provide a project timeline with key milestones (12-month schedule).

See attached.

## Outcome Measurement\*

Please describe how you will analyze the outcomes and gauge success of the project.

The HOME pilot program will prove successful when mother figures/tenants:

Are transparent with and trust their mentors

Have completed housing and financial counseling sessions through partner organizations/banks

Meet their credit score goals

Meet their homeownership and emergency fund savings goals

Are qualified in basic homeowner skills as set by our HOME mentoring team

Achieved home ownership  
Maintain home for one year

## ***Organizational Information***

---

### **Name of Organization\***

Erie City Moms

### **Organization Mission Statement\***

The mission of Erie City Moms is to foster community that supports, uplifts, and champions Mother figures from all walks of life.

### **Year Organization Was Established\***

2016

### **Municipality in which headquarters is located\***

Erie

### **County Council District in which headquarters is located\***

[Click here to see a County Council District map](#)

County Council District #2

### **Website Address**

[www.ErieCityMoms.org](http://www.ErieCityMoms.org)

### **Staff/Volunteer Leadership\***

List or upload a list of the names and titles of the organization's leadership.

Erie City Moms 2023 Paid and Volunteer Staff.docx

### **Board of Directors\***

List or upload a list of the names, email addresses, and occupations of the organization's board members.

Erie City Moms 2023 Board of Directors.docx

## Annual Summary Statistics

Please click here to download the Annual Summary Statistics form

## *Additional Documents*

---

### Most Recent Annual Report or Year End Review\*

\_FINAL Erie City Moms November 2023 Bifold Brochure.pdf

### Current General Liability Insurance Certificate

Erie City Moms CertificateofLiabilityInsurance.pdf

### Organization Logo

### Letters of Support

Reference Joe Bizarro.pdf

### Other Supporting Material

Reference Hilling-Pfeffer Insurance.pdf

### Other Supporting Material

226 E 10th Timeline and Budget - 11.21.23.pdf

### Links

Upload a link

<https://vimeo.com/880546245?fbclid=IwAR3086maschf8Z-W--d05fN9mEBPAIhk47R9kH-7xFqPzEIFxAtWFOazeCQ>

## File Attachment Summary

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### ***Applicant File Uploads***

- Erie City Moms 2023 HOME Pilot Program Budget.xlsx
- Erie City Moms 2023 Paid and Volunteer Staff.docx
- Erie City Moms 2023 Board of Directors.docx
- \_FINAL Erie City Moms November 2023 Bifold Brochure.pdf
- Erie City Moms CertificateofLiabilityInsurance.pdf
- Reference Joe Bizarro.pdf
- Reference Hilling-Pfeffer Insurance.pdf
- 226 E 10th Timeline and Budget - 11.21.23.pdf



### **Paid Staff**

Darlene Cohen, Office Manager  
Niki Halbig, Mentoring Director  
Jessy Burkell, Communications Coordinator  
Spring Stephens, Mentee Child Care Provider

### **Mentoring Team**

Dorine Biggie  
Gloria Coleman  
Jane Johnson  
Shayla Jones  
Diane Kuvshinikov  
Pisey Leute  
Mark Pattmore  
Catherine Pugliese  
Emily Wachter  
Daria Wells  
Ashley Westgate

### **Special Events Team**

Danielle Godfrey  
Melissa Hall  
Sonya Hessinger  
Veronika Gromov  
Janet Peters

### **Volunteer Staff**

Amanda Burlingham, Acting Executive Director  
Hannah Boaks, Volunteer Coordinator  
Catherine Fox, House Renovation Project Manager  
Tracy Hokanson, Access and Inclusion Coordinator  
Rich Ligo, Data Coordinator  
Jim Schriefer, Foreman

### **Moms Groups Team**

Sarah Coots  
Ashley Duran  
Sharisse Heidelberg  
Jeff Hokanson  
Colleen Maybee  
Cypriana Milsap  
New Yorka Morrow  
Tara Prishak  
Mary Santiago  
Spring Stephens  
Marci Stitt

### **Housing Team**

Jerry Cafardi  
Catherine Fox  
Keith Hardin  
Katie Peppers  
Jim Schriefer



## 2023 Board of Directors

**Chair Amanda Burlingham**, public relations consultant, acting executive director of Erie City Moms, 814-504-3037, APBurlingham@outlook.com

**Treasurer Diane Kuvshnikov**, administrative assistant at Erie Insurance, 814-440-5187, everlovin04@yahoo.com

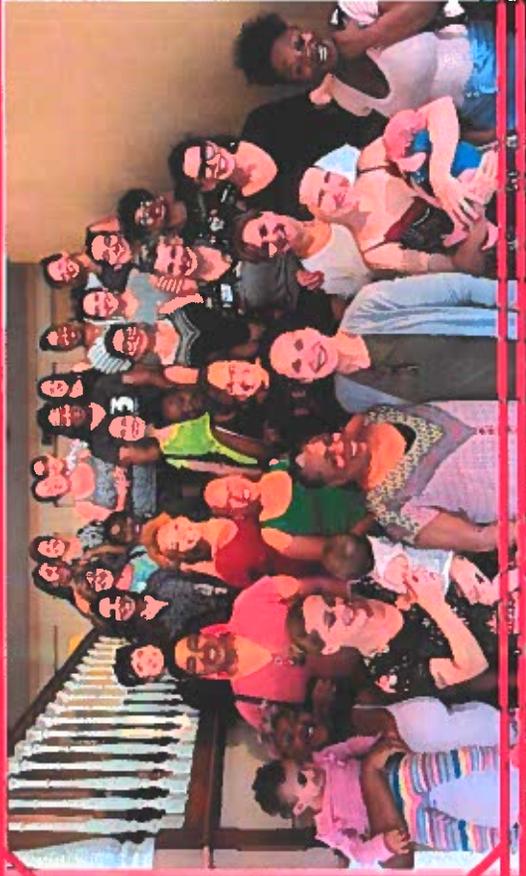
**Secretary Janet Peters**, advancement data manager at Mercyhurst Preparatory School, 814-873-4663, jmp16510@gmail.com

**New Yorka Morrow**, life insurance agent, American Income Life, 814-920-0625, missmorrow2293@gmail.com

**Ashley Westgate**, director of operations at Emma's Footprints, 814-464-5114, ashley@emmasfootprints.com



*Stronger Moms  
Since 2016*



## MISSION & HISTORY

Erie City Moms supports, uplifts, and champions Mother figures from all walks of life via 100% free Moms groups, mentoring, advocacy, and basic needs help.

Since 2016, we've grown from a grassroots Moms group to an innovative nonprofit organization speaking life into and helping meet the needs of more than 750 diverse Mother figures and 2,250 children.

We're so grateful when you join, follow, pray for, and donate to Erie City Moms!



@ErieCityMoms  
#ErieMomsMatter

707 W. 38th St., #227, Erie PA 16508    ErieCityMoms@gmail.com

## Moms Groups

Respite, restoration, and relationships in Erie's urban core

Every Moms group is 100% free and includes dinner and programming for youth ages 0-15, plus:

- a story of hope and healing
- insight from local experts
- donations for Moms and kids, and
- connections to diverse resources for personal, professional, spiritual, and parental growth

Erie City Moms proudly partners with United Way Community Schools and The Boys and Girls Club of Erie.

## Mentoring & Advocacy

Connected resources, long-term support

The Good Friend Program, our one-on-one and group mentoring initiative, focuses on braving maternal wellbeing, increasing social capital, gaining financial literacy, building soft and occupational skills, and improving parenting know-how.

Mentees have accomplished milestones from balancing a budget to buying a home. All the while, mentors help carry burdens and open doors, share wisdom and encouragement, and celebrate Moms' successes with their families.



## HOME Program

Home Ownership for Mothers in Erie

To truly combat housing instability and help women build knowledge and wealth for their children, Erie City Moms is committed to bolstering any Mother figure who aspires to homeownership. In fall 2023, we purchased and began renovating what we hope will be our first homeowner pipeline property. There, Mother figures and their families can live short-term for low rent and continue to build their credit and savings accounts while being mentored through financial literacy and common challenges to homeownership. Tenants will receive help in their permanent housing search and accessing all first-time homebuyer benefits.

## Basic Needs Support

Hope and help in difficult seasons

Today, 45.2% of Erie's single Mothers and their children and another 8.4% of married Moms and their kids are living in poverty. Black single Mothers and their children make up the highest percentage of Erie's homeless population. Our Moms groups are a channel for our leaders to connect with Mother figures who want help meeting basic needs or navigating local systems.

Support may also come from Erie City Moms' Housing Team committed to helping Moms tackle safety and quality-of-life housing issues.

Thank you Ashley Stack Photography for donating beautiful professional images of Erie City Moms, their families, and our leaders!



# CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

12/06/2023

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

**IMPORTANT:** If the certificate holder is an **ADDITIONAL INSURED**, the policy(ies) must have **ADDITIONAL INSURED** provisions or be endorsed. If **SUBROGATION IS WAIVED**, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

<b>PRODUCER</b> Hilling-Pfeffer Insurance, Inc. 332 Holland St.  Erie PA 16507		<b>CONTACT NAME:</b> Alan Hilling <b>PHONE (A/C, No, Ext.):</b> (814)870-3109 <b>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</b> alan@hpins.us <b>FAX (A/C, No):</b> (814)870-3343																						
<b>INSURED</b> Erie City Moms, Inc. 707 W 38th St PMB 227  Erie PA 16508		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE</th> <th>NAIC #</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>INSURER A :</td> <td>ERIE INSURANCE EXCHANGE</td> <td>26271</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER B :</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER C :</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER D :</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER E :</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER F :</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE		NAIC #	INSURER A :	ERIE INSURANCE EXCHANGE	26271	INSURER B :			INSURER C :			INSURER D :			INSURER E :			INSURER F :		
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**COVERAGES****CERTIFICATE NUMBER:****REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL(SUBR) INSD. WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR  GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER:		Q61 0232497	10-7-23	10-7-24	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 1,000,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 5,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 2,000,000 PRODUCTS - COMP OP AGG \$ 2,000,000 \$
	<b>AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO OWNED <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY					COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>UMBRELLA LIAB</b> <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> <b>EXCESS LIAB</b> <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED: RETENTION \$					EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ \$
	<b>WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY</b> ANY PROPRIETOR PARTNER EXECUTIVE OFFICER MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory In NH) If yes describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	Y/N N/A				PER STATUTE OTH-ER E L EACH ACCIDENT \$ E L DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ E L DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

**CERTIFICATE HOLDER****CANCELLATION**

PROOF OF INSURANCE 707 W 38TH ST PMB 227  Erie PA 16508	SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.  AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE 
--	---

Fax: ACORD 25 (2016/03)

Email:

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# Interstate



To Whom it May Concern,

Erie City Moms uplifts mother figures from all walks of life through moms groups, mentoring, advocacy, and basic needs help. My family and I own Interstate Mitsubishi and Interstate Nissan and have been proud partners with Erie City Moms since 2018. Together, we help women and children attain safe, quality housing and take steps toward independence.

Here at Interstate, we understand how hard families are working to achieve dreams like auto and home ownership. We value the community and relationships Erie City Moms is building and the long-term support and mentoring provided to members. This kind of community and support can mean the difference between staying stuck or overcoming. We also value the investment Erie City Moms makes in equipping and empowering women and raising up the current and next generation of regional employees and leaders.

I advise and my family and I financially support Erie City Moms' Home Ownership for Mothers in Erie program and believe in its effectiveness to combat housing instability and help women build knowledge and wealth for their children.

We are asking you to join us and support Erie City Moms' H.O.M.E. program today.

Sincerely,

**Joseph Bizzarro**  
Interstate Mitsubishi  
Interstate Nissan  
Interstate Rental Car  
Fairview Collision Center  
ph: 814-866-7222  
[joeb@interstatemitsubishi.com](mailto:joeb@interstatemitsubishi.com)



November 10, 2023

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Rd., #201  
Erie, PA 16510

Re: Erie City Moms, Inc.

To whom it may concern:

Hilling-Pfeffer Insurance Agency fully supports the Erie City Moms, Inc. in their efforts to assist Erie moms utilizing their mom groups, free mentoring programs, home interventions, and transformational connections.

Erie City Moms, Inc. has now extended this support to housing for single mothers. Most recently they are renovating a home at 226 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Erie, PA 16503 to assist with the housing needs of single mothers.

We believe this project is beneficial to both local women and their families, but also to the local economy. Updating run-down properties and occupying them with families who benefit from the Erie City Moms support groups will improve the neighborhoods in which these properties are located. These moms are contributing members of society.

The opportunities provided by Erie City Moms will help break the cycle of poverty and deprivation in these families giving their children great hope for the future.

Please consider contributing this very worthy cause. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alan S. Hilling'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Alan S. Hilling  
[alan@hpins.us](mailto:alan@hpins.us)

**ERIE OFFICE**  
332 HOLLAND ST  
ERIE, PA 16507  
PH (814) 870-3109  
FAX (814) 870-3343

**NY OFFICE**  
401 E. FAIRMOUNT AVE  
LAKEWOOD, NY 14750  
PH (716) 763-2886  
FAX (716) 763-7531

**HILLING-PFEFFERINSURANCE.COM**



**RESOLUTION NUMBER 5, 2024**

**Resolution to Enter into agreements with forty-five (45) Erie County Special Events Grants applicants, whose events take place between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024**

Whereas, the Regional Assets Committee has established a set of eligibility and funding criteria for special events that are produced by municipalities and nonprofits;

Whereas, the forty-five (45) special event recipients are identified as:

Albion Area Fair Inc., Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System, AmeriMasala, Asbury Woods Partnership, Borough of Edinboro, Borough of Girard, Borough of Union City, Borough of Wesleyville, CAFÉ, Crime Victim Center, Downtown North East, Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundations, Edinboro Arts & Music Fest, Edinboro University Foundation, Erie Arts & Music Festival, Erie County Bar Association, Erie Homes for Children & Adults, Erie Latino Leadership Association, Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Fund, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, Erie Roller Derby, Erie-Western PA Port Authority, Film Society of NWPA, Goodell Gardens, Harborcreek Community Engagement Team, Harborcreek Township, Holy Trinity RC Church, Humane Society of NWPA, Impact Corry, Jefferson Educational Society, Lake Erie Fanfare, Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society, Mercy Center for Women, Nonprofit Partnership, Orthodox Church of the Nativity, Presque Isle Light Station, Presque Isle Partnership, Saint Patrick’s Church, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, Union City Pride, Waterford Community Fair Association, Wattsburg Agricultural Society, Inc., YMCA of Greater Erie, and Young Artists Debut Orchestra;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$200,337.88 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit “A”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with forty-five (45) Erie County Special Events Grants applicants, whose events take place between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024, so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region through tourism, and continue to enrich the quality of life for Erie County residents.

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_,

This resolution was passed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2024 by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

March 21, 2024

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, ECGRA



# 2024 Special Events

Organization Name	Name of Event	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
Albion Area Fair	Albion Area Fair	\$15,000.00	\$13,700.25
Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System	PA Business Week in Erie County	\$3,000.00	\$2,700.00
AmeriMasala	AmeriMasala	\$1,870.00	\$1,683.00
Asbury Woods Partnerhsip	2024 Series of Events	\$3,737.47	\$3,363.73
Borough of Edinboro	Boro with the Works	\$1,675.00	\$1,507.50
Borough of Girard	Dan Rice Days	\$636.59	\$572.93
Borough of Union City	UCPD National Night Out 2024	\$230.00	\$207.00
Borough of Wesleyville	Wesleyville Community Days	\$966.00	\$869.40
CAFE	Celebrate Erie/Lights over Lake Erie	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Crime Victim Center of Erie County	2024 Events	\$3,682.05	\$3,313.85
Downtown North East	Winefest 2024	\$3,383.00	\$3,044.70
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundations	Barber National Institute Events 2024	\$13,906.75	\$12,516.08
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	\$3,800.00	\$3,420.00
Edinboro University Foundation	202 Highland Games & Scottish Festival	\$2,837.50	\$2,553.75
Erie Arts & Music Festival	2024 Erie's Blues & Jazz Festival	\$5,700.00	\$5,130.00
Erie County Bar Association	2024 ECBA Law Day	\$2,500.00	\$2,250.00
Erie Homes for Children & Adults	Golden Gatsby Gala/Partners in Dance/Unspoken Symphony	\$3,654.00	\$3,288.60
Erie Latino Leadership Association	Fiesta on the Square	\$1,545.75	\$1,391.18
Erie Lions Club Save An Eye Fund	86th Annual Save An Eye All-Star Football Game	\$1,250.00	\$1,125.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	2024 Erie Homecoming	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00
Erie Roller Derby	Bayside Bruisefest	\$404.60	\$364.14
Erie United Methodist Alliance	Ride for the Refuge, EUMA Golf Tournament, Ruck the Bay	\$3,500.00	\$3,150.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	8 Great Tuesdays	\$6,281.00	\$5,652.90
Film Society of NWWA	Eerie Horror Fest	\$6,065.00	\$5,458.50
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2024 Series of Events	\$3,275.00	\$2,947.50
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team	2024 Community Events	\$1,040.00	\$936.00
Harborcreek Township	Concert in the Park, Light Up Night	\$1,500.00	\$1,350.00
Heberle's Heartstrings	2nd Annual Jason Heberle Memorial Open Mic Competition	\$550.00	ineligible
Holy Trinity RC Church	31st Annual Zabawa Polish Festival	\$7,850.00	\$7,065.00
Humane Society of NWWA	The Mutt Gala, Rock & Rescue, Trails & Tails 5K, Paws for Patriots Golf Outing	\$7,860.00	\$7,074.00
Impact Corry	CorryFest Chainsaw Carving Festival	\$3,858.65	\$3,472.79
Jefferson Educational Society	JES Programming/Global Summit	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	28th Annual German Heritage Festival	\$2,495.00	\$2,245.50
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Panegyri	\$8,195.00	\$7,375.50
Mercy Center for Women	2024 Events Lineup	\$4,510.00	\$4,059.00
Nonprofit Partnership, The	23rd Annual Keystone Nonprofit Conference	\$4,385.75	\$3,947.18
Orthodox Church of the Nativity	Troika Festival 2024	\$3,000.00	\$2,700.00
Presque Isle Light Station	2024 Season of Events	\$1,123.50	\$1,011.15
Presque Isle Partnership	2024 Events	\$5,545.00	\$4,990.50
Saint Patrick's Church	Erie Irish Festival	\$8,210.73	\$7,389.66
SSJ Neighborhood Network	St. Paul's Italian Festival	\$5,590.18	\$5,031.16
Union City Action	French Creek Festival 2024	\$1,051.25	\$946.13
Waterford Community Fair Association	2024 Waterford Community Fair	\$9,650.00	\$8,685.00
Wattsburg Agricultural Society. Inc.	Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	\$14,057.50	\$12,651.75
YMCA of Greater Erie	Senior Fun Day 2024	\$367.50	\$330.75
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2024 Series of Events	\$4,852.00	\$4,366.80
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Global Youth Service Day 2024	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$220,791.77</b>	<b>\$200,337.88</b>

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6, 2024**

**Resolution to enter into agreements with seven (7) applicants to the Mission Main Street Grant Program**

Whereas, the Regional Assets Committee recommended to the Board of Directors and subsequently did pass a set of guidelines, an online application, match requirements, and eligibility requirements to provide funding support for Erie County’s main streets; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors affirms that seven (7) applicants have met the funding eligibility; and

Whereas, the seven (7) Mission Main Street applicants are identified as Borough of North East, Borough of Union City, Downtown Girard, Erie Downtown Partnership, Fairview Township, Impact Corry, and Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network; and

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$900,000 to be disbursed over the next two years to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit “A”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law, and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, enters into agreements with seven (7) Erie County Mission Main Street applicants so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region through tourism, and continue to enrich the quality of place we all call home: Erie County, Pennsylvania.

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

This resolution was passed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2024 by a vote of \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_.

**ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY**

-----  
Chairman  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
March 21, 2024

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
ECGRA



## Mission Main Street 2024-2025

Organization	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Borough of North East	Destination North East	\$200,000.00	\$125,000.00
Borough of Union City	Mission Main Street 2024/25	\$200,000.00	\$125,000.00
Community Resources for Independence	Inclusive Beautification Project	\$11,000.00	ineligible
Downtown Girard	Revitalizing Downtown Girard	\$200,000.00	\$125,000.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	Erie Downtown's Growth through Experience (EDGE Strategy)	\$200,000.00	\$125,000.00
Fairview Township	Highway 20 Corridor Improvements	\$200,000.00	\$175,000.00
Impact Corry	Acitvating our City Center	\$199,280.00	\$125,000.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Cennections - Census Tract 19 Reviatlization Project	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Total Requested</b>		<b>\$1,410,280.00</b>	<b>\$900,000.00</b>

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 7, 2024**

**Resolution to enter into agreements with one (1)  
Erie County Community Facility  
as part of the Building a Better Future**

Whereas, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed funding proposal and made funding recommendations in support of community facilities as they relate to ECGRA’s Strategic Plan and community goals;

Whereas, the applicant for Community Facilities and the Board of Directors affirms that the Building a Better Future guidelines suggest that these funds are intended to have a generational impact for the communities they serve throughout Erie County;

Whereas, the eligible applicant is awarded a grant totaling \$50,000 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit “A”;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into an agreement with one (1) Erie County Community Facilities so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region and continue to enrich the quality of life for Erie County residents.

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

This resolution was passed on 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2024 by a vote of \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

-----  
Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
March 21, 2024

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, ECGRA

# Union Township

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*2023 Build a Better Future Transformative  
Grant Program - Community Facilities*

## *Union Township*

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Mr Dennis Triscuit  
16300 Route 8  
Union City, PA 16438

uniontownship@outlook.com  
O: 814-438-3781  
M: 814-882-0919

## *Ms. Vicky Proctor*

---

16300 Route 8  
Union City, PA 16340

uniontownship@outlook.com  
O: 814-438-3781  
M: 814-566-0567

# Application Form

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## 1. Eligibility

The 2023 Community Facilities Grant Program is for capital improvements to existing facilities only. No funding for programming is available under this program.

### Building a Better Future Transformative Grant Program Acknowledgement\*

I have read the ECGRA Building a Better Future Transformative Grant Program Guidelines.

### Qualifiers\*

All must apply in order to be eligible.

- Applicant is in good standing with ECGRA's reporting requirements to date.
- Applicant is in good standing with the IRS and state and local taxing bodies.
- Applicant's headquarters is located in Erie County.
- Applicant will be the recipient of the grant. (Pass through grants are not permissible.)
- Applicant is current on payment of unemployment or other required employee related insurances.
- Applicant's real estate taxes are not delinquent.

### Disqualifiers

If any apply, your organization is not eligible.

- A public safety organization or facility, including volunteer fire departments
- A state or federally owned facility or agency.
- Any organization that was part of the settlement agreement with ECGRA, entered into 12/13/10

## 2. Organizational Information

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### Name of Organization\*

Union Township

### County Council District in which headquarters is located\*

[Click here to see a County Council District map](#)

County Council District #6

## Staff/Volunteer Leadership\*

List or upload a list of the names and titles of the organization's leadership.

-Vicky Proctor - Secretary/Treasurer

## Board of Directors\*

List or upload a list of the names, email addresses, and occupations of the organization's board members.

-Dennis Triscuit - Township Supervisor - Chairman - uniontownship@outlook.com - retired Union Township roadmaster

-Earl Brown - Township Supervisor - Vice Chairman - uniontownship@outlook.com - retired crop farmer and former manager of Erie County Conservation District

-Brian Gregor - Township Supervisor - uniontownship@outlook.com - contractor

## Description of the organization and its capacity to deliver the project\*

Please include your organization's mission statement, a brief history of the organization, and how your organization has the resources and capabilities to manage a capital improvement project. If you intend to contract with a construction manager, please provide details.

Union Township, located in southeast Erie County, surrounding Union City Borough and bordering on Crawford County, was established in 1800. The township consists of 36.6 square miles, and with Union City Borough constitutes the majority of the Union City Area School District.

Through the requirements of its municipal structure and the experience of its elected Township Supervisors in the bidding process and working with multiple contractors over a period of years, Union Township is well positioned to manage this capital improvement project. The three Township Supervisors combined have worked for or with the township for more than 65 years. For this project, the township supervisors will also rely on the experience of its municipal engineer, Mark Corey, of Mark J. Corey & Associates of Harborcreek, Pa., who serves as engineer for approximately half of the municipalities in Erie County and some 40-50 municipalities in Northwest Pennsylvania.

Also helping to facilitate this project is Steven Bishop, project manager for the Union City Community Foundation, who has some 27 years of experience in managing grants and projects.

## Please describe your community center\*

Please provide a description of your community center's mission, history, constituents, types of programming and resources, and sources of revenue. Do you have a strategic plan?

This grant will help Union Township establish a community center for township residents that until this time has not existed in a meaningful way. The lack of such a facility has been recognized by the Township Supervisors as a detriment to the township, as well as to adjacent Union City Borough, on which the township has had to traditionally rely for public spaces and facilities. An ADA-compliant public meeting space for township residents will be incorporated into a new Township Building the Supervisors recently purchased, to which the township's municipal operations will be moved.

The recently purchased facility was constructed in the mid-1990s to serve as a Pennsylvania vehicle emissions testing center that never materialized, and was then owned by a natural gas exploration company from which it was recently purchased by the township. The new building is located only a few hundred yards south of the existing Township Building (see photos) on Route 8 just south of Union City Borough. The current Township Building was constructed in the 1940s, purchased by the township in the late 1950s, and expanded as needed.

Upon completion of the projects funded by this ECGRA grant and local match, the township expects to relocate its operation, including administrative functions, vehicles and equipment, to the new building. The Township Supervisors will then sell their existing Township Building and a parcel from the new property to fund the remainder of their desired work at the new site.

The new facility provides the additional space that would allow the township to better accommodate public voting, plus meetings of community groups, host educational opportunities for area residents, and provide an emergency "warming center" for area residents and an incident command center for emergency service providers when the need arises.

The facility's users would largely be the township's approximately 1,542 residents (as of the 2020 Census), but would also likely include some use by Union City Borough's 2,934 residents, given the Union City boundary line is located only a few hundred yards from the new facility and that the township surrounds the borough.

Renovations/enhancements to the new Township Building/Community Center, to incorporate public space for the described uses, are expected to cost approximately \$329,350, based on Township Engineer Mark Corey's preliminary estimates. The \$100,000 requested of ECGRA plus the local match of \$33,000 would allow for creation of the public space, HVAC improvements, and likely some of the interior renovations that would allow the township to relocate to the new building.

The township has already demonstrated its commitment to this project by the \$200,000 purchase of the new facility. Ongoing operation and maintenance of the new Township Building/community center, once built out, will be fully funded by township tax revenue. The supervisors refer to the new facility as the township's "forever home."

### ***3. Project Information***

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#### **Project Title\***

Please give your project a descriptive title fewer than 15 words.

Union Township

#### **In which census tract will your project take place?\***

Please use this link to find out your census tract information: <https://geomap.ffiec.gov/ffiecgeomap/>

0120.01

## Brief Project Summary\*

Please provide a short (two or three sentences) executive summary about your project.

Example: The Youth Center will improve energy efficiency by installing 90 new windows.

A new Union Township community facility will be established by restoration of energy-efficient HVAC systems; creation of an enlarged public meeting space; and interior renovations to Union Township's newly purchased facility.

## Project Narrative\*

Describe your capital improvement project in detail including the problem(s) you are addressing. Describe why the project is important and necessary (short and long term) to your organization. Are you doing anything innovative that could be used as a model for other community facilities?

Union Township Supervisors seek to break from the standard small-township model of providing only basic road maintenance, zoning and taxation services, by providing space for quality-of-life and safety opportunities for local residents. This in turn will assist the township in its short- and long-term goals of retaining and attracting residents and businesses, with the hope of stabilizing and/or reversing the population decline seen in most of rural Erie County's communities in recent decades. As such, Union Township's aspirations could be a model for other small municipalities to emulate. A key aspect of providing such opportunities, however, is availability of a facility that can accommodate such activity.

The township's recent decision to purchase a nearby building in which to relocate its administrative and road maintenance functions provides that opportunity, but the cost to initiate and then fully fund the effort will be greatly hindered if the township can only rely on its relatively small tax base to do so. Funding from ECGRA will significantly jump-start the transition between buildings, and allow for inclusion of the desired community-center functions.

While providing a much-needed public space to Union Township residents, relocation to the new building will solve other long-standing operational issues. They include:

-The township is only able to fully use its current building thanks to cooperation from the owner of the adjacent property, who allows the township to operate its trucks and equipment over the adjacent property in order to make the turn necessary into the current building's equipment doors. Should that adjacent owner ever change their mind about allowing the township to use the property, or should the adjacent property ever be sold and a different use result, the township could easily be in a position of not being able to use its current building in any meaningful way.

-The township does not have room in its current building for all of its vehicles and equipment, and must lease space to accommodate its needs. Having vehicles and equipment at multiple locations lessens the township's efficiency.

-The township has limited exterior space to store materials, such as pipes, aggregate and millings, and must store some of those materials off-site which further decreases the township's efficiency. The township has also had materials stolen from its current unsecured outdoor space. The new facility includes more than 7 acres, including considerable space that is fenced and secured.

-The township's current limited, non-air conditioned office space does not make for a conducive work environment, does not allow for a separation of space between general administration, zoning and tax collection services, is not lockable beyond the front door, and does not have ADA-compliant restrooms.

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response\*

The Building a Better Future Transformative Grant Program was created to provide resources to help Erie County recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that those residents who were disproportionately affected are provided assistance. Describe your efforts to assist the community at large and your constituents or clients during the pandemic. Whom did you help? What services did you provide specifically to address the affects of the pandemic? How did this affect your organization's finances? How would your capital improvement project address the lingering problems of the pandemic and ensure a more equitable recovery?

Union Township Supervisors are proud of how the township's employees persevered in providing services to township residents and others during the COVID-19 pandemic. Township employees, without fanfare, showed up every day, even while dealing with the pandemic on a personal level, to keep the township's roads open during winter for township residents, emergency providers and others, as well as continuing to maintain that roadway infrastructure throughout the three years of pandemic. Zoning and tax collection services also persevered during that time.

For rural residents, particularly during something as traumatic as a pandemic, the vital ability to travel is dependent on these township employees setting their personal health concerns aside and continuing to provide those basic services. The term that arose during the pandemic, of "essential workers," best describes how Union Township's workers and elected officials responded to assist area residents.

The township increased taxes twice during the pandemic to maintain its services, as overall costs and supply chain issues that affected the country as a whole had a similar impact on the township.

Creating a viable community space as part of the relocation to its new facility would provide a more equitable recovery to these rural residents who otherwise may not have benefited from that portion of their federal taxes designated for the pandemic recovery.

## Matching Funds Status\*

Please discuss the status of your matching funds. Do you have cash in hand? Have you applied for other funding?

Union Township proposes to provide the \$33,000 local match from two sources, as follows:

- The township will provide half of the match, \$16,500, from its own general fund.

- The township will apply to the Union City Community Foundation by its April 1 deadline for the remaining \$16,500, with a decision from the UCCF forthcoming in early May. If the foundation cannot provide those funds, the township will supply the entire match.

## Project Benefits\*

Please describe who will benefit and how. Will specific groups be targeted or served by the use of the grant?

Union Township's 1,542 residents are expected to be the the primary beneficiaries of this grant, although Union City Borough's 2,934 residents are also expected to benefit from the public nature of the space to be provided. The integrated nature of the township's and borough's populations, as well as collective emergency and other services, ensure that residents of both municipalities will benefit.

Once the space becomes available, Union Township is expected to reach out to the community to make it aware of the space and to begin scheduling use. Public notice through the local media will also be generated, with appropriate acknowledgment of ECGRA's key role in making it possible.

## Amount Requested from ECGRA\*

The maximum request is \$100,000.

\$100,000.00

## Project Budget\*

Please click here to download a budget form

[950375\\_2023-bbf-budget-form-community-facilities.xlsx](#)

See attached.

## Cost Estimates, Proposals, or Bid Results\*

Applicants must provide detailed cost estimates, cost proposals, or bid results for their project.

The project consists of repurposing the newly purchased building into the township's new administrative and equipment facility, with sufficient space conducive for use as an ADA-compliant community center. If ECGRA approves \$100,000 in funding, Union Township with the local match will have \$133,000 available for this project.

Given that such ancillary costs as engineering, permits, inspections and administrative/legal costs would absorb approximately 19 percent of that budget, the township would initially allocate approximately \$108,000 for construction and \$25,000 for ancillary costs. With those funds, and project estimates provided by the township's engineer, Mark J. Corey & Associates, the township could be expected to accomplish the following:

- HVAC improvements: \$72,000.
- Enlarge meeting room: \$36,000.
- Ancillary costs (engineering, including construction drawings, bid specifications and project oversight; permits and inspections; administrative/legal costs) at 19% of construction costs: \$25,000.

TOTAL COST OF PHASE I USING ECGRA FUNDS & LOCAL MATCH: \$133,000.

Mr. Corey notes his construction estimates are likely high. If bids come in under the estimates, and/or the ancillary costs come in lower than budgeted, some general interior renovations will be added to the ECGRA project list. Interior renovations to the new space, including to common spaces, administrative space, maintenance space, and employee space, is estimated at \$80,000. If funds do become available for additional interior renovations, the priority will be any renovations that help expedite the township's relocation to the new building, so that their current building can be put up for sale.

Beyond the work using ECGRA and matching funds that will allow the township to relocate and to provide public community space, the township has additional "Phase II" goals for the complete utilization of their new

space. This work they intend to fund with proceeds from selling their current township building, plus sell a parcel/building that can be split off from their new building purchase, and perhaps tax revenue. That additional work includes:

- Interior renovations (if none are accomplished in Phase I with ECGRA funds): \$80,000.
- Widen/replace garage and man doors: \$45,000.
- Purchase/install emergency generator: \$40,000.

-TOTAL PHASE II ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION: \$165,000.

-Engineering, inspections, administrative/legal costs and contingencies for additional construction @ 19 percent: \$31,350.

TOTAL PHASE II COMPLETION: \$196,350.

TOTAL PHASES I & II: \$329,350

NOTE: When including the \$200,000 purchase of the new building, the total project cost is \$529,350, of which the proposed ECGRA grant of \$100,000 represents 18.9 percent.

## Architectural Drawings or Construction Plans

Construction plans for the identified improvements will be created as part of this initiative.

## Project Partners\*

Describe project partners and how they will be involved.

The Union City Community Foundation is providing support to Union Township by covering the cost of UCCF's project manager, Steven Bishop, to prepare the ECGRA grant application, to prepare the UCCF grant application for the partial local match, and to provide any necessary support in terms of project implementation, follow-up and reporting.

## Project Support\*

Provide evidence of project support within the community. (Letters of support, resolutions, memoranda of understanding, etc. can be uploaded at the end of the application.)

See attached.

## Ability to Complete the Project\*

Grantees will have two years to complete their projects. Describe your ability to complete the project within the allotted time. Who will manage your capital improvement project?

Union Township anticipates easily completing the projects described using ECGRA funds well within the 2-year limit (see timeline below), and/or by the Dec. 31, 2026 deadline to expend ARPA funds. Engineer Mark Corey will be largely responsible for shepherding the project, from construction drawings and bid specifications to assisting the Township Supervisors with vetting bidders, and overseeing the contracted

work. Steven Bishop of the Union City Community Foundation will provide support to Union Township as needed, including any required follow-up reporting to ECGRA.

## Timeline\*

Please provide a detailed project timeline with key milestones (24-month schedule).

From notice of ECGRA grant award in February 2024, the timeline will be as follows:

1-Apply for half of matching funds to Union City Community Foundation by April 1 deadline, with UCCF decision early May 2024.

2-Engineer Mark Corey designs the project, creates bid specifications and acquires any necessary permits within four months, by September 2024.

3-Advertise for bids, open bids, review and award bids within two months, by November 2024.

4-Construction/completion of projects within six months, by May 2025.

-Total elapsed time from ECGRA award notice: 15 months.

## Outcome Measurement\*

Please describe how you will analyze the outcomes and gauge success of the project.

Project success will be measured in terms of the amount of community activity scheduled for the new Township Building's public space over time, as the community becomes aware of and begins to utilize the space. Another measurement will be whether and how that space is utilized for safety purposes in terms of a warming center when electrical outages affect the region, and whether circumstances require emergency service providers to use the facility for command center purposes.

## 4. Additional Documents

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### Most Recent Annual Report or Year End Review\*

If your report is too large to upload, please contact ECGRA staff at 814-897-2694.

No Annual Report available.docx

### Current General Liability Insurance Certificate

Union Township Certificate of Coverage 2-24-23 to 2-24-24.pdf

### Letters of Support

Union Township Letters of Support.pdf

## Other Supporting Material

Union Township Building Photos.pdf

# File Attachment Summary

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## *Applicant File Uploads*

- 950375\_2023-bbf-budget-form-community-facilities.xlsx
- No Annual Report available.docx
- Union Township Certificate of Coverage 2-24-23 to 2-24-24.pdf
- Union Township Letters of Support.pdf
- Union Township Building Photos.pdf

## 2023 Community Facilities Program Budget

**Project Sponsor: Union Township**

**Project Name: Union Township**

Category	Amount Requested from ECGRA	Cash Match	Narrative	Total
<u>Pre-construction activities</u>	\$5,000	\$20,000	Construction documents; bid specifications; advertising; bid review; permits; inspections;	\$25,000.00
<u>Construction</u>	\$95,000.00	\$13,000.00	om; possible interior renovations.	\$108,000.00
<u>Other</u>				
<u>Totals</u>	\$100,000.00	\$33,000.00		\$133,000.00

# Annual Report/Year End Review

Union Township, like most small townships, does not prepare an Annual Report or Year End Review.



Certificate No.: 6  
Member Number: 0147

### CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

This Certificate is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the Certificate holder. This Certificate does not amend, extend or alter the coverage afforded by the coverage document(s) listed below.

NAME & ADDRESS OF MEMBER: Union Township & Union Township Municipal Authority, Erie County  
16075 Shreve Ridge Road  
Union City, PA 16438

This is to certify that the coverage document(s) listed below have been issued to the Member named above and are in force at this time. Notwithstanding any requirement, term or condition of any agreement or other document with respect to which this Certificate may be issued or may pertain, the coverage(s) afforded is subject to all the terms, exclusions and conditions of the Coverage Agreement(s).

<b>TYPE OF COVERAGE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b>	<b>LIMIT OF COVERAGE</b>
General Liability	2/24/2023	2/24/2024	\$2,000,000
Property	2/24/2023	2/24/2024	\$141,000

CANCELLATION: Should the above described coverage document(s) be cancelled, the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Risk Management Association will endeavor to mail 30 days written notice to the below named Certificate holder, but failure to mail such notice shall impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the pool.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS/OTHER COVERAGES:**

POLICY #B0147PC- Certificate Holder is added as Additional Party & Loss Payee with respect to 2017 JCB HD110WT Hydradig Excavator w/ 24" and 28" digging buckets and 50" grading bucket, S#2496221. Account #189551, \$250 Deductible, ACV applies.

NAME & ADDRESS OF CERTIFICATE HOLDER:  
Stephenson Equipment, Inc (SEI)  
7201 Paxton Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

DATE ISSUED: 3/13/2023

Authorized Representative

## **BOROUGH OF UNION CITY**

13 South Main Street • Union City, Pennsylvania 16438  
Phone (814) 438 - 2331 • Fax (814) 438 - 7115  
Secretary@UCBorough.us

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January 29, 2024

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Road #201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear ECGRA Board of Directors:

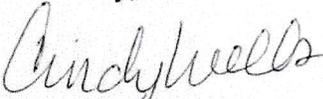
Union City Borough supports the application from Union Township for "Community Facilities" funding through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

While Union Township and Union City Borough collaborate to provide services to our collective community, we recognize the need and desire for the township to have infrastructure available specifically to serve its own residents. A community facility that would provide the township the opportunity to meet the needs of its residents would be a welcome addition to our region and providing such space as part of the township's move to a new, larger, enhanced building is a prudent decision.

As our region continues its recovery from the Covid pandemic, Union Township's decision to secure public space that would allow it to serve quality-of-life needs as well as respond to future emergencies will position it to better serve our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cindy Wells  
Borough Manager



**Union City Community Foundation**  
**An Affiliate of The Erie Community Foundation**  
*Helping Today... Shaping Tomorrow.*

P.O. Box 512, Union City PA 16438 Phone: (814) 438-7622 Fax: (814) 438-2008

Website: [www.unioncitycf.org](http://www.unioncitycf.org) E-mail: [contact@unioncitycf.org](mailto:contact@unioncitycf.org)

January 26, 2024

**RE: ECGRA Union Township  
Letter of Support**

Dear ECGRA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Union City Community Foundation (UCCF), I wish to express our support for the Union Township application for "Community Facilities" funding through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Establishing a community facility to serve Union Township's residents, in conjunction with the township's pending move to a new facility for its administrative and maintenance functions, would be a significant step in positioning the township for the future. The Union City area has been working hard in recent years to counter the job losses and disinvestment of recent decades, efforts made even more important and challenging when factoring in the effects of the Covid pandemic.

While most of those recovery efforts have focused to date on Union City Borough, we recognize the importance of including Union Township to ensure our community's recovery is as wide-ranging and effective as possible. We applaud Union Township for recognizing the importance of planning for the future. Again, we strongly encourage the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to award funding to Union Township.

Thank you for your support, and your consideration.

Most Respectfully,

R. Steven Jones  
Chairman, The Union City Community Foundation

Board of Trustees

R. Steven Jones, Chairman – Kyle Blakeslee, Vice Chairman – Diane Bowes, Secretary – Shawn Gross, Treasurer  
Dr. Rogelio Allanigue - Matt Bennett - Pat Burgess - Shawn Gross - Ronald O. Jones - Larry Obert - Jim Shreve - Norman  
Troyer– Karen Surkala – Mark Webb – Cindy Wells - Natalie Wilmoth

President

Karen Bilowith



www.ucasd.org

## Union City Area School District

107 Concord Street  
Union City, Pennsylvania 16438

(814) 438-3804  
Fax: (814) 438-2030

Stacey D. Dell  
Director of Curriculum and Special Programs  
[sdell@ucasd.org](mailto:sdell@ucasd.org)

**Matthew W. Bennett**  
**Superintendent**  
[mbennett@ucasd.org](mailto:mbennett@ucasd.org)

Tara L. Lineman  
Business Manager  
[tlineman@ucasd.org](mailto:tlineman@ucasd.org)

January 26, 2024

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Road, #201  
Erie, PA 16510

Subject: Union Township's Application for Community Facilities Funding

Dear ECGRA Board of Directors:

The Union City Area School District supports Union Township's application for "Community Facilities" funding from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Union Township is located within the boundaries of the Union City Area School District, which means their residents and businesses are also our residents and businesses. As such, we applaud their efforts to provide public space that would allow the township to better serve its constituents. A stronger township makes for a stronger school district.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew W. Bennett".

Matthew W. Bennett  
Superintendent  
Union City Area School District

Current Union Township Building



New / Future Union Township Building



**RESOLUTION NUMBER 8, 2024**

**Resolution to Adopt the 2024-25 Budget**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, hereby adopts its 2024-25 Budget, to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A".

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

This resolution was passed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2024 by a vote of \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

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Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

March 21, 2024

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, ECGRA

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Draft Budget

2024-25

Expense	<u>2023-24 Budget</u>	<u>2024-25 Budget</u>
<b>62100 · Contracted Services</b>		
62110 · Auditing Fees	8,200	8,150
62130 · Professional Services	40,000	40,000
62140 · Legal Services	20,000	20,000
62145 · Website Design	3,000	2,000
62150 · Payroll Services	1,500	1,500
<b>Total 62100 · Contracted Services</b>	<u>72,700</u>	<u>71,650</u>
<b>62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>		
62840 · Office Equipment	6,000	3,000
62890 · Rent	18,000	20,200
<b>Total 62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>23,200</u>
<b>65000 · Office Administration</b>		
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	3,000	3,000
65020 · Postage	250	100
65040 · Office Supplies	2,000	2,000
65050 · Cell Phone	3,000	3,000
65060 · Copier Lease	4,200	4,200
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	500	200
65080 · Bank Fees	500	500
65085 · Professional Development	6,000	3,000
65090 · Meeting Expenses	4,000	3,500
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	250	250
<b>Total 65000 · Office Administration</b>	<u>23,700</u>	<u>19,750</u>
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>		
65105 · Outreach	5,000	5,000
65110 · Advertising	4,000	4,000
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	18,000	18,000
65120 · Insurance	18,600	18,000
65130 · Grant Management Software	5,500	6,000
65150 · Travel	5,000	4,000
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<u>56,100</u>	<u>55,000</u>
<b>66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>		
66005 · Salaries, Wages, Benefits	300,000	250,000
66010 · FITW Tax	21,000	20,000
66015 · FUTA Tax	150	150
66020 · PASUI Tax	2,000	2,000
66700 · PMRS	19,750	19,800
<b>Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<u>342,900</u>	<u>291,950</u>
<b>7000 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes</b>	0	0
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>519,400</u>	<u>461,550</u>