



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 26, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of three important community planning processes that have been initiated in Erie County.

The first initiative involves the preparation of a Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the County of Erie Consortium and the Town of Hamburg. The second initiative involves the preparation of a Consolidated Plan for the ACT HOME Consortium including the municipalities of Amherst, Cheektowaga and Tonawanda. The third initiative involves the preparation of a regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) for all of Erie County, except the City of Buffalo. As recipients of federal CDBG and HOME program assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the County and the four municipalities are required to complete a Consolidated Plan and an AI at least once every five years. The firm of Mullin & Lonergan Associates (M&L) has been retained to assist us in preparing these documents.

The purpose of the Consolidated Plan is to identify the priority housing and community development needs throughout Erie County. This will serve as the basis for investing the federal funds received from HUD each year. The purpose of the AI is to identify any discriminatory practices and policies that impede the ability of members of the protected classes in securing equal access to suitable housing. As such, the AI presents the County with an opportunity to evaluate public policies and procedures in the interest of affirmatively furthering fair housing choice.

I encourage you to become personally involved in both of these important community initiatives, as your input is valuable to us. I cordially invite you to attend a meeting with our consultants in order to contribute to a more detailed discussion of the issues outlined. The meetings will be coordinated in groups with representatives that have similar focus in the community. A meeting for your group is scheduled:

Wednesday, September 10, 2014
5:15 – 6:30 p.m. OR 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. [choose one time]
Town of Amherst Senior Center
370 John James Audubon Parkway
Amherst, NY 14228

Please confirm your attendance via email to ellary.mori@erie.gov, including the name(s) of people attending.

I want to thank you in advance for your active participation in this community planning process. We rely on your input to make Erie County a place where all residents feel welcome. If you have any questions about the Consolidated Plan or the AI, please feel free to contact Ellary Mori at 858-2733 or ellary.mori@erie.gov. Thank you again for your involvement in our community and for taking part in this important project.

Sincerely,



THOMAS J. DEARING
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Diane Cadle, Erie County DEP
Ellary Mori, Erie County DEP
Chris Hull, Town of Hamburg
Sue Divita, Town of Amherst
Carla Kosmerl, Town of Cheektowaga
Jim Hartz, Town of Tonawanda
Bill Wasielewski, M&L