



MEMORANDUM COUNTY OF ERIE CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive and Chair of the Capital Projects Committee

FROM: Aislyn McQueen

DATE: July 13, 2026

RE: 2027 Capital Projects Committee Meeting #5

Attendance: County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, Budget Director Mark Cornell, Commissioner Troy Schinzel, Commissioner Daniel Castle, Legislature Chair Tim Meyers, Minority Leader John Mills, Chief of Staff James Blackwell, Chief of Staff Bryan Fiume, Chief of Staff Erich Weyant, Commissioner Gale Burstein, Melissa Boler, William Whalen, Captain Usinski, President Adiam Tsegai, Eric Noons, James Frankhauser, Deputy Commissioner Tray Cichocki, Charles Banas, Tim German, and Aislyn McQueen. Virtual Attendees: Jessica Schuster and Tina Shortt.

1) Call to order & Minutes

- a) County Executive Poloncarz called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.
- b) Chairman Meyers motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes; seconded by Legislator Mills; approved unanimously.

2) Department of Health – Medical Examiner's Office Presentation

- a) Chief Toxicologist Melissa Boler requested funding for a new toxicology instrument.
- b) Current machine is 10+ years old; manufacturer no longer services it.
- c) Instrument is critical for screening drugs, postmortem work, and DWI cases.
 - (1) The County Executive asked if the quote that was given with a recent date would be honored next year once the funds are disbursed and it is time for payment. The answer was yes; the vendor is aware of the County's process and agreed to honor the price in the future.

3) Sheriff's Department Presentation 1

- a) William Whalen, First Deputy Superintendent, requested full replacement of the camera system, control board, and storage.
- b) Current system uses 231 aging cameras; proposal increases to 369.
- c) Only 3 of 25 housing units and no program areas have cameras.
- d) Project expected to reduce observation demands in some areas and reduce lawsuits.
- e) Director Cornell requested phased options with costs.

4) Sheriff's Department Presentation 2

- a) Captain Joseph Usniski requested funding for upgraded camera software to reduce staff search time.
- b) No recurring costs expected.

5) SUNY Erie Presentation

- a) President Adiam Tsegai, Eric Noons, James Frankhauser, and Tracy Cichocki presented three requests:
- b) VTTC Phase 1 relocation and renovation, with equipment purchases in year two.
- c) Facilities Master Plan Phase 5, including electrical/MEP upgrades, roof work, ADA updates, classroom improvements, and security upgrades for North and City campuses. City Campus priority needs include HVAC and bathroom updates.
- d) Continued funding for North Campus Fields (new baseball field, ADA/NCAA compliance, concessions). President Tsegai noted community interest and potential rental use.
- e) Additional funding for the Fields project will be requested next year; Director Cornell asked for clarified project phases.

6) Department of Public Works – Buildings & Grounds

- a) Deputy Commissioner Tracy Cichocki requested funding for roof replacements, Convention Center electrical/chiller upgrades, elevator repairs, countywide mechanical/electrical work, Willowdale clubhouse updates, environmental testing contracts, highway barn preservation, Rath electrical upgrades, energy conservation projects, new Lancaster highway facility updates, and IT/GIS updates.
- b) Director Cornell noted some of these issues will worsen and grow costlier if not addressed.

7) Public Comment Period – No members of the public attended in person or virtually.

8) Next Meeting

- Callback sessions deemed unnecessary if departments supply requested information.
- Next meeting: August 10 at 2pm.

Chairman Meyers made a motion to end the meeting which was seconded by Legislator Mills.