Erie County Ethics Board

Meeting MINUTES – **IN BOLD**

April 3, 2023 8:30 a.m:

**Budget Conference Room (16th Floor) – Rath Building**

Members: \_x\_\_Chris Trapp, Chair

\_x\_\_Brian Downey, Vice Chair

\_x\_\_Heather Gresham

\_x\_\_Ellen Kennedy

\_\_\_Taunya Abaya, Secretary

Staff: \_x\_\_Aaron Rubin, Counsel

\_x\_\_William Licata

Excused: \_\_\_ Taunya Abaya, Secretary

Others Present:

1. Meeting call to order. – **Called to Order 8:36 AM**

2. February and March meeting Minutes for review, corrections, and approval

a. Special February meeting minutes for review, corrections, and approval

3. Website / Email Updates (Witherspoon/Chair): **Did Bill Licata get anything from the Website – NO.**

a. Request for opinions/actions:

1. Request of Town of Cheektowaga - **Town of Cheektowaga – one of the Town of Cheektowaga members of its Ethics board had a confrontation with the Cheektowaga Town Attorney. The Board Member wants the Town Attorney removed by the Erie County Ethics Board. (CT) We don’t have the authority to remove anyone from a Town Ethics board. (CT) We can give an opinion on whether the conduct was unethical behavior. (CT) President Trapp will give an opinion after he collects more facts, he will look at and report to the Board.**

b. Updates to website: Minutes, agenda

c. FOIL Requests – **No information on FOIL Requests – Bill Licata**

d. Other communications:

4. Old Business:

a. Chief Ethics Officer Update – **Ask Commissioner Bray to update the Chief Ethics Officer advertisement and send to Chris Trapp. Chris Trapp will put the advertisement in Minority Bar, Women’s Bar, UB Law and Erie Bar Association.**

b. Status of annual financial disclosure forms - **ECMC, ECC, Erie County Legislature and Erie County Sheriff’s Office are the only ones who have not sent in a list. Chris Trapp will send emails to those who have not sent their list of employees asking them to send in today. Need to send out the Financial Disclosure Forms as we get the lists. Please send Ethics Board their financial disclosure forms today. When do Brian Downey and Taunya Abaya’s terms end? Brian Downey term ends 2027. Taunya Abaya term ends 2027. Bill Licata to call Kayla Witherspoon for a form that allows the Ethics Board to determine if there is a problem with a financial disclosure form that was sent in.**

c. Annual report to Legislature – **Budget will be reviewed later this month**.

d. Nepotism – **Ellen Kennedy emailed April Baskins Office and they did not get back to her. Ellen will follow up with a phone call.**

5. New Business: - **No new business.**

6. Public Comments – **No public comments.**

7. Motion to adjourn - **Heather Gresham made a motion to adjourn. Brian Rooney seconded. All in favor**.

8. Next meeting May 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m., 16th floor ECH