



2015 Community Agenda

1. Community-Oriented Policing of Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority Property

The Buffalo Police Department should work closely with tenants of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority and Open Buffalo to develop truly community-oriented policing policies and practices that serve as a model for the whole city and region. The Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority and the City of Buffalo should ensure that any new contract for public housing policing by the Buffalo Police requires effective implementation of truly community-oriented policing.

2. Building Community Wealth for all City of Buffalo Residents

The Buffalo Common Council should introduce and pass a Responsible Banking Ordinance to address lending disparities in the City of Buffalo.

3. Equitable Funding for the NFTA to Improve Transit and Ensure Affordability for Riders

1. The Erie County and Niagara County Industrial Development Agencies should discontinue granting exemptions to the mortgage recording tax in incentive packages offered to developers;
2. Erie County should increase the mortgage recording tax contribution to the NFTA from 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent;
3. Erie County should increase the sales tax contribution to the NFTA from 0.125 percent to 0.25 percent; and
4. New York State should adjust the amount of State Transit Operating Assistance (STOA) to the NFTA to bring it up to parity with other upstate transit systems by taking into consideration the number of riders served, the number of miles covered, and the additional services provided by Metro Rail.

4. High Road Economic Development at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) and its member institutions should agree to enact a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that prioritizes the needs of the immediate neighborhood and the workers on the campus.



5. Take the Profit Out of Being a Slumlord through Focused Legislation, Intelligent Code Enforcement, and Rigorous Data Analysis

New York State should:

- Pass legislation proposed by Senator Kennedy and Assemblyman Ryan to combat blight by making housing code fines a lien on the property. Unpaid fines will put properties on the In Rem auction list;
- Pass legislation that directs all the profits from such sales at the auction to Buffalo's own urban renewal programs, in place of the current policy of having the profits go back to the state.

The City of Buffalo should:

- Pass legislation sponsored by Council Member Richard Fontana that parallels the state tax legislation;
- Provide professional development for code enforcers to allow them to bring best practices from communities around the nation to the fight against blight in Buffalo;
- Provide better information technology for analyzing data on blighted properties, including 311 calls, 911 calls, housing code citations, and housing court appearances; and
- Facilitate communication across departments through training and making better use of existing information technology.

6. Fair Elections in the City of Buffalo

The City of Buffalo should pass and implement public financing legislation for all city elections.

7. Improve Local Recycling Rates

In order to boost recycling rates:

- 1) The Buffalo Public Schools should have a district-wide program to recycle all the materials mandated by the City and to educate students on recycling;
- 2) The City of Buffalo should amend its recycling law, regulations and policies to:
 - a) Clarify that all people, business and entities are legally required to recycle;
 - b) Spell out the roles and responsibilities of businesses, multi-family residence owners and tenants, event organizers, etc.;



- c) Decrease the penalties for violations, but begin issuing warnings and, after three warnings, fines for failure to recycle; and
- 3) All towns and cities in Western New York should:
 - a) Establish a universal, shared recycling menu that includes all currently recyclable items;
 - b) Track their recycling rates accurately and report them to the public;
 - c) Prioritize public education and marketing of recycling and adequately fund it.

8. Language Access in Buffalo and Erie County

The City of Buffalo, County of Erie, and Buffalo Public Schools should improve language access policies, practices and training so that immigrants and refugees receive meaningful access to government services, as required by federal and state civil rights laws.

9. Restore the Focus of the Niagara River Greenway by Developing a Unified Implementation Strategy

The Niagara River Greenway Commission should work with the Standing Committees, municipalities and community groups to develop an implementation strategy (Greenway Action Plan) for the entire Greenway.

The Greenway Action Plan will:

1. Convene stakeholders to share lessons learned, submit process improvement recommendations, and articulate and align around a coordinated implementation strategy;
2. Guide the work of the Niagara River Greenway Commission, staff and volunteers in advancing the Greenway as originally envisioned;
3. Institute a point-based project evaluation system and develop recommended standards of excellence to guide project selection and implementation;
4. Identify strategic prioritized implementation pilot projects; and
5. Outline a pilot Greenway Stewardship program in order to ensure Greenway sustainability.



10. Expand High Quality Early Learning Opportunities in Western New York

In order to expand the availability and accessibility of high quality early learning opportunities in Western New York:

1. The 2015-2016 New York State Budget should provide funding of at least \$150 million to support Universal Pre-K programs across Upstate New York and Long Island;
2. The 2015-2016 New York State Budget should invest an additional \$100 million in child care subsidies to continue working toward universal access to childcare for working parents who are currently eligible for and in need of high-quality early learning options for their children; and
3. The New York State Legislature should enact legislation and related funding to implement a comprehensive quality rating and improvement system for child care and early learning providers (e.g. QUALITYstars).

11. Invest in ECC's City Campus

Erie County Government should invest in and grow ECC's City Campus in lieu of expanding a suburban campus which is less accessible to public transit and more distant from the job and internship opportunities in Downtown Buffalo, the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, and RiverBend. Specifically, any STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) or academically comparable facility should be located at the City Campus, the most accessible location in Western New York.