



## **2014 Community Agenda**

### **1. Community Benefits from the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus**

The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and its member institutions should forge an agreement with the community to adopt high road economic development practices, including:

- a. Creating quality jobs and job ladders for local workers, including minority workers and nearby residents;
- b. Investing in green design and operation, sustainable, multi-modal transit, public art, and historic preservation;
- c. Providing business opportunities for locally-owned independent businesses, minority and women-owned businesses, and worker owned businesses in construction and permanent phases;
- d. Assisting nearby neighborhoods in resident-driven efforts to improve quality of life and neighborhood conditions; and
- e. Enhancing community participation in BNMC decision-making.

### **2. Restorative Justice in Schools, Courts and Holding Center**

- a. The Buffalo Public Schools should implement restorative justice practices and programs in order to reduce out-of-school suspensions and racial disparities in school discipline.
- b. Buffalo City Court and Erie County Family Court should use restorative justice for low level offenses and probation violations.
- c. The Erie County Holding Center should work with community groups to implement restorative justice to resolve inmate disputes and help inmates re-integrate into their communities.

### **3. Improve Conditions at the Erie County Holding Center and Correctional Facility**

Erie County should

- a. Re-establish the Conditional Release Commission and provide early or “pre” release to inmates where appropriate;
- b. Use the Inmates’ Telephone Fund for its legal and intended purpose, i.e. inmates’ rehabilitation and education;
- c. Establish an Office of Ombudsman for complaints and issues at the Holding Center and Correctional Facility; and

- d. Implement Restorative Justice practices to foster improved relationships among and between inmates and staff.

**4. Language Access in Buffalo and Erie County**

The City of Buffalo and County of Erie should create and implement Limited English Proficiency Plans to ensure that all residents – including immigrants and refugees receive meaningful access to government services, as required by federal and state civil rights laws.

**5. Ensure the Health and Safety of Students in Buffalo Public Schools**

The Buffalo Board of Education should

- a. Comply with NYSED Commissioners Regulations as they relate to school health,
- b. Implement the District Wellness Policy that it adopted in April of 2012, and
- c. Utilize Community Health Workers to coordinate school health efforts.

New York State should provide greater oversight of school health regulations and revise them if necessary to provide greater clarity and guidance to school districts.

**6. Put Erie Community College’s proposed STEM building on its accessible, transit-rich City Campus**

Erie Community College, Erie County, and New York State should work together to shift ECC’s proposed Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Building to its accessible, transit-rich city campus, close to the job and internship opportunities of downtown Buffalo and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

**7. Raise the Age**

New York should pass legislation to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from sixteen to eighteen so that youth who are charged with a crime are treated in a more age appropriate manner, as they are in 48 other states in the U.S.

**8. Pass and Implement Foreclosure Bond Legislation**

The Buffalo City Council should pass legislation that would amend the property maintenance code to include a foreclosure bond agreement. This agreement would mandate that whenever a bank forecloses on a property they have to put up a \$10, 000 bond to ensure the maintenance of the property. Therefore if there were any code violations or the property needed to be demolished the cost would come out of the bond. The bank would then get the remainder of the bond back, minus a \$200 processing fee, when they had finished the foreclosure and transferred the title.

**9. Pass the Just and Open Business Subsidies (JOBS) Act to get our money’s worth from public investment**

The New York State Assembly, Senate, and Governor should pass and sign into law the. The Just and Open Business Subsidies Act (A8203) has been introduced by

Assemblymember Sean Ryan, and we have a commitment from a Senate sponsor to introduce it in the spring. We want our members of the WNY delegation to the state legislature to cosponsor the bill. Further, we want both the NYS Assembly and Senate to pass the legislation, and for Governor Cuomo to sign it into law. When it becomes law, the JOBS Act will make the process for determining whether to give public money to private companies in the form of subsidies and bonds more transparent and hold entities who receive those subsidies accountable to their promises.

#### **10. Give Parents and Students a Voice in Buffalo Schools**

Buffalo Public Schools should

- a. Fully implement Commissioners Regulations 100.11 and the NYSED *Board of Regents Policy on Improving Student Achievement and School Performance through Parent and Family Partnerships* to ensure parent and student inclusion in shared decision making at school building and district level;
- b. Amend the District Parent Involvement Policy to be a Family Involvement Policy (including students) and strengthen language and practices to support meaningful inclusion of families in school leadership.