

RESOLUTION

By: Joseph Golombek, Jr. & David A. Rivera

Re: Merging The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission & The Peace Bridge Authority

Whereas: There are currently more than six hundred state and local authorities in New York State; and

Whereas: The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, an authority made up of an eight member Board with equal representation from Canada and the U.S., was created in 1938; and

Whereas: The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is the international entity that owns, operates and manages the Lewiston-Queenston, Rainbow and Whirlpool-Rapids Bridges; and

Whereas: The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (a/k/a The Peace Bridge Authority), which was created in 1925, owns and operates the Peace Bridge and is managed by a ten member Board of Directors. Five of these members are from the United States and the other five are from Canada; and

Whereas: For some time, discussions have been on-going regarding the expansion or relocating of the aforementioned international bridges, most notably the Peace Bridge, as well as the possible construction of a privately owned "Ambassador Bridge"; and

Whereas: The highest duty of all elected and appointed officials, as well as governmentally created authorities, should be to benefit the taxpayers who they purport to represent; and

Whereas: At times, the authorities that operate our local international bridges have been accused of ignoring or minimizing the effect of their planning and operations on the health, quality of life and property values of local residents, particularly those who live in close proximity to Buffalo's waterfront in areas such as Black Rock and the West Side; and

Whereas: Governor Cuomo has stated "The excessive number of agencies and authorities in New York State government has become inefficient, unproductive and frankly unworkable"; and

Whereas: Governor Cuomo has formed a Spending and Government Efficiency Commission (SAGE) to recommend ways to make government leaner and more cost effective; and

Whereas: The SAGE Commission will be reporting recommendations on agency and authority reorganizations to the Governor by May 1, and a final report will be presented to the governor by June 1, 2012.

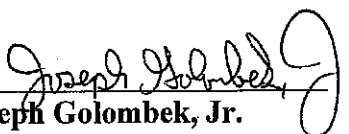
Whereas: Having two separate authorities manage four bridges that are located within a few miles of one other is government inefficiency that should be addressed; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:


That the Buffalo Common Council calls upon the SAGE Commission and Governor Cuomo to consider merging the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and the Peace Bridge Authority, as a step forward in reducing the number of authorities and making government leaner and more cost effective.

Be It Further Resolved

That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, the Peace Bridge Authority, Governor Cuomo and the Spending and Government Efficiency Commission.



Joseph Golombek, Jr.
North District Council Member



David A. Rivera
Niagara District Council Member