

Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority

Resolution No. 04 - 59

APPROVAL OF CITY OF BUFFALO REVISED FOUR YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

WHEREAS, Chapter 122 of the laws of 2003 as amended by Chapter 86 of the laws of 2004 requires the City of Buffalo to submit a four-year financial plan that includes the City of Buffalo, the Buffalo Public School District, the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (“BMHA”) and the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (“BURA”) and the Mayor’s proposed City budget to the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority (“BFSA”) not later than the date required for submission of the budget to the Common Council as set by the City Charter, and

WHEREAS, the City of Buffalo submitted a Four Year Financial Plan and proposed City budget on May 3, 2004 to the BFSA, and

WHEREAS, the BFSA engaged the Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth (“ILGRG”) to seek public input and comment relating to the City’s and/or any covered entities financial plan, and.

WHEREAS, The ILGRG held an all day public comment session on Saturday May 8, 2004, and

WHEREAS, The City of Buffalo, Buffalo Public Schools, the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority and the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency presented the Four Year Plan to the BFSA at a BFSA Board meeting on May 12, 2004 and responded to questions from BFSA Board members, and

WHEREAS, The ILGRG presented a report to the BFSA at a Board meeting on May 12, 2004 reporting on the public comments received in connection with the public comment session held on May 8, 2004 by the ILGRG, and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2003 the BFSA adopted Resolution 04-52 in which it:

1. Disapproved the City of Buffalo Four-Year Financial Plan dated May 1, 2004,
2. Returned the Four Year Plan to the City of Buffalo with instructions that the City revise the Plan in accordance with the BFSA Report, and
3. Directed the City of Buffalo to submit to the BFSA a revised Four-Year Financial Plan no later than June 2, 2004, and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2004 the City of Buffalo submitted its “Four-Year Financial Plan (Revised)” (“Revised Buffalo Plan”), and

WHEREAS, staff from the BFSA and the City of Buffalo repeatedly met to share information and exchange views regarding the levels of risk for initiatives contained in the Revised Buffalo Plan, and

WHEREAS, at the June 9, 2004 BFSA meeting, a presentation was made by the City of Buffalo, addressing the elements of the plan and the progress on an initiative to transfer parks operations to the County of Erie, and

WHEREAS, BFSA determined that the Buffalo School District, BURA and BMHA had provided Plans that substantially comply with the BFSA statute, and

WHEREAS, though the Revised Buffalo Plan was largely satisfactory, there were concerns that if the parks initiative fell through, the City would be forced to close the parks, and

WHEREAS, the City was ordered to present a plan on June 21, 2004 with specifics to address how parks would operate in the Financial Plan if the parks initiative did not occur, and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the threat to the parks, the Revised Buffalo Plan was a balanced document; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Four Year Plan for the City of Buffalo provided:

1. A series of aggressive gap closing actions that achieve recurring savings for the City and conform to the minimum percentages set forth in the BFSA Act,
2. Initiatives to transfer City parks operations to the County of Erie and to shift all employees to a single health insurance provider,
3. A Declaration of Need for a BFSA borrowing for \$19.054 million executed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council, and
4. A Certificate from the Mayor that indicates that “the budget submitted with the Complete Plan is consistent with the City of Buffalo’s Revised Four Year Financial Plan and that the City of Buffalo operations within that budget are feasible as required by Section 3857(2)(a) of the Public Authorities Law.” and

WHEREAS, BFSA staff has reviewed the Revised Four Year Plan for the City of Buffalo dated June 2, 2004 and reported that it complies with the requirements of the Statute and recommends that the BFSA approve the plan,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority determines that the City of Buffalo Four Year Financial Plan is complete, complies with the standards set forth in Sections 3857 and 3838 of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Act and is hereby approved.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved June 9, 2004

/S/ Richard Tobe
Secretary