



MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Brenton Davis,
County Executive

Douglas R. Smith,
Director of Administration

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ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVIS DOUBLES DOWN ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF TAXPAYER FUNDS

ERIE, PA – “I will not resign. The people of Erie County elected me to revitalize our economy, create good paying jobs, confront cronyism and ensure transparency. In keeping with that effort, in partnership with County Council, I plan to seat a truly diverse and inclusive board,” said Erie County Executive Brenton Davis.

“To threaten a discrimination lawsuit against the County Executive is both frivolous and baseless. I support the diversity, equity, and inclusion of all people in all communities across our County. On October 20, 2022, members of the Latino, Asian, and Middle Eastern communities stood beside me as I pledged to create a diverse commission, which addresses the needs of all marginalized citizens of all ethnicities and backgrounds. I will ensure this work is done,” Davis added.

This administration has publicly stated its support for the work of the DEI commission many times, but we have also demanded transparency and accountability on behalf of Erie County taxpayers. When the perception of impropriety arises, we will not sit idly by and allow these practices to occur.

The Davis Administration met on multiple occasions with members of the commission in good faith in an effort to get the DEI Commission back on track and free of any conflicts. The commission chose to move forward under the cover of darkness on a federal holiday in an effort to get grant contracts signed and authorized. This is simply not good government and not how this commission should be operating.

The work of the DEI Commission is both important and necessary. We must continue the mission of investing in initiatives that will advance equity in all corners of Erie County. We welcome all financial partners to step up and fund this initiative, as the County remains the only investor.

We have already seen one member of council send up a name for a new appoint to the commission, which we support and applaud. Until the Administration in partnership with County Council can seat a complete nine member board which is truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive we are doing a disservice to the residents of Erie County. We remain committed to seating a nine-member board, which is free from conflicts of interest that represents the taxpayers of Erie County.

“Organizations that are sitting on tens of millions of dollars and grandstanding over a \$250,000 grant is lockstep with the status quo and business as usual. If they have money to file these frivolous lawsuits, there is not an abhorrent need for taxpayer funds.”

I will not resign; I cannot resign because the people of Erie County elected me to revitalize our economy, create good paying jobs and tackle cronyism and business as usual. In keeping with that effort, I plan to seat a truly diverse and inclusive board.

We need a fresh start and