



# MEDIA RELEASE

## ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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County Executive

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 1, 2023

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### **ERIE COUNTY RECEIVES COAST GUARD APPROVAL TO WELCOME CRUISE SHIPS TO ERIE'S PORT**

**ERIE, PA** – Erie County Executive Brenton Davis is pleased to announce that Erie County has received the OK from the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo to welcome cruise ships into its port.

Erie County has had a cruise ship terminal located at 1 Holland St. since 2002. This facility cost taxpayers over \$6 million to build. Despite that investment, changing security regulations have halted Erie's cruising dream.

Since taking office, the Davis Administration has made it a point to put Erie on the map in the cruising industry. The County has held various meetings with the Coast Guard and the Port Authority with a goal of getting the facility security plan approved.

"Our Economic Development Department has been in contact for months with various cruise lines and the Coast Guard about the possibility of adding Erie as a stop," said Erie County Executive Brenton Davis. "We have brought these executives to Erie to highlight all that we have to offer. We have received some good feedback and are hopeful that we will see our first cruise ship arrive as soon as this summer," Davis added.

Now that Erie has the green light, there are a few steps over the next couple of months that the Port must do to finalize their plan. However, those steps will not stand in the way of outreach to cruise lines or anything else the County wants to do to begin assembling destination packages for the visits.

Erie's port would operate as a port of call. Ports with that designation can allow passengers who previously clear customs to continue to enter other U.S. ports without having to clear customs again. Erie County is still looking into the possibility of designating Erie as a cruise boat passenger-clearing terminal, which would have U.S. Customs and Border Patrol on site and require significant upgrades.

Erie County would like to thank Valentis Group Inc. for their help in this process.