



Office of the County Executive
Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

March 5, 2021

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Acceptance of a Donation from Carnegie Mellon University to Create an Enrichment, Cognitive Research, and Science Outreach Program at Seneca Park Zoo

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body authorize the acceptance of a donation from Carnegie Mellon University of equipment and services at an approximate retail value of \$25,000 to create an Enrichment, Cognitive Research, and Science Outreach Program ("the Program") at Monroe County's Seneca Park Zoo.

The donation consists of computer equipment, monitors, internet connections and fiber installation, signage, and other exhibit improvements required for the installation of an interactive research station at the baboon exhibit at the Seneca Park Zoo. The exhibit improvements will allow zoo guests to observe the baboons engaged in cognitive research. The data generated from this research will be publically available, and, as part of the Program, will be used to generate interest in STEM fields including science, statistics, computer programming, especially among women and minorities who are historically under-represented in these fields.

The specific legislative action required is to authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a donation from Carnegie Mellon University of computers, monitors, internet connections, signage, and exhibit improvements for an Enrichment, Cognitive Research, and Science Outreach Program at Seneca Park Zoo, at an approximate retail value of \$25,000, and to execute an agreement, and any amendments thereto, with Carnegie Mellon University and other educational institutions to provide students, researchers, and the public access to information generated by the Program.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(31) ("purchase or sale of furnishings, equipment or supplies, including surplus government property, other than the following: land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials") and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This donation will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

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Office of the
Legislature Of
Monroe County

Committee Assignment

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