



Office of the County Executive Monroe County Legislature

May 6, 2022

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

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No. 220192

Not to be removed from the
Office of the
Legislature Of
Monroe County

Committee Assignment

REC & ED -L
WAYS & MEANS

Subject: Amend the 2022 Operating Budget to add \$1.00 Admission for Individuals Receiving Food Assistance at Seneca Park Zoo

Honorable Legislators:

We recommend that Your Honorable Body amend the 2022 Operating Budget to add \$1.00 admission at Seneca Park Zoo for individuals receiving food assistance.

Seneca Park Zoo is a treasure in Monroe County that has been serving its residents for over 100 years. However, the educational and recreational opportunities at Seneca Park Zoo have not always been accessible to all Monroe County residents, especially those in our most vulnerable populations. This barrier to cultural institutions is not unique to Monroe County—an Institute of Museum and Library Services analysis shows only 43% of children in the lowest income families visited museums in their kindergarten year—but it is the responsibility of this Honorable Body to take steps to ensure equitable access to County resources.

Museums for All is the only nationally coordinated financial accessibility program in the museum field. Since the launch of the initiative in 2014, Museums for All has served more than 3.5 million visitors nationwide at more than 800 museums of all varieties, representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To participate in Museums for All, cultural institutions must offer individual admission fees ranging from free to \$3.00 to individuals and families presenting a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefits Transfer ("EBT") card and a valid form of photo identification. Museums for All admission rates must be offered for up to four individuals per EBT card and during all normal operating hours.

Current local Museums for All participants include the George Eastman House Museum and the Rochester Museum & Science Center. With Seneca Park Zoo's participation in Museums for All, Rochester would become a Museums for All "Hub City," demonstrating Monroe County's commitment to our cultural institutions and the people we serve.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Amend the 2022 Operating Budget, Seneca Park Zoo Fees to add \$1.00 Admission for Individuals Receiving Food Assistance, up to four individuals per Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefit Transfer card, during all normal operating hours.

2. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to participate in the Museums for All program.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(26) ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

The admissions are revenue generating and no net County support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committees for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,



Adam Bello
Monroe County Executive



Sabrina LaMar
Monroe County Legislature
President



Yversha Roman
Monroe County Legislature
Minority Leader



Howard Maffucci
Monroe County Legislator
District 10



Michael Yudelson
Monroe County Legislator
District 13



Susan Hughes-Smith
Monroe County Legislator
District 14



Dave Long
Monroe County Legislator
District 16



Maria Vecchio
Monroe County Legislator
District 17



John B. Baynes
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District 18



Rachel Barnhart
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Linda Hasman
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Carolyn Delvecchio Hoffman
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Ricky Frazier
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