TOWN OF CONCORD
ERIE COUNTY
SPRINGVILLE, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION NO. 15 OCTOBER 8, 2026

WHEREAS, Erie County Legislator Jeanne Vinal, representing portions of the Towns of Amherst and Cheektowaga, has recently contacted local officials regarding a renewed effort to reinstate the Erie County Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, proposals of this nature have been opposed and rejected numerous times over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, based on the version of the draft local law shared and referenced by Legislator Vinal's communication, this Planning Board would derive its mission and purpose from a regional growth plan adopted by Erie County in 2007; and

WHEREAS, under this version of the law, only two of the nine voting members of this board would reside outside of the Cities of Buffalo, Lackawanna, and Tonawanda or the Towns of Amherst, Cheektowaga, and West Seneca, leaving a large representation gap for communities that make up the majority of the land area of Erie County and making no distinction between suburban and rural communities outside of first-ring suburbs; and

WHEREAS, according to New York State Law, this board could have authority to review and reject certain local project proposals, or set conditions for the approval thereof, as well as act as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, stripping away local control of the environment impact review process; and

WHEREAS, creation of such a board would add an additional and unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to the already daunting task of fostering constructive economic development within our region; and

WHEREAS, the oversight and control conferred upon such a board would reduce the voice of local governments and the residents who would make decisions regarding land use within their own communities; and

WHEREAS, local municipalities and the residents who elect their government officials deserve to retain autonomy and authority to determine their own development and zoning plans that best suit their communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has already been encroaching upon local control by proposing and enacting legislation that allows them to override local zoning regulations for various types of projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Concord desires to maintain the identity of our community and retain control over its vision for growth through local representation; and

WHEREAS, the Concord Town Board does not believe the establishment of an Erie County Planning Board would be in the best interests of the residents of Concord or similarly situated municipalities across Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Concord believes it is crucial that local municipalities retain the right to determine their own planning actions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Concord hereby opposes the creation of an Erie County Planning Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, the certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, and chairman of the Erie County Legislature.

The resolution was unanimously adopted

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ERIE
TOWN OF CONCORD

This is to certify that I, Laura Safford, Town Clerk of the Town of Concord in said County of Erie, have compared the foregoing copy with the original resolution now on file in this office, and which was passed by the Town Board of the Town of Concord 8th day of October, 2026 and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such original resolution and the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand affixed the seal of said Town on this 8th day of October 2026.

Philip Drozd, Town Supervisor

Laura Safford, Town Clerk