



ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
Mark S. Carney, Vice Chair
Peggy A. LaGree, Treasurer

Cc: Margaret A. Murphy, General Counsel
Karen A. Prendergast, Chief Financial Officer
Russell J. Stoll, Chief Operating Officer
Leonard F. Kowalski, Executive Engineer

From: Terrence D. McCracken, Secretary

Date: April 8, 2021

Subject: Creation of New Positions relative to the Information Technology Department

The Erie County Water Authority (the “Authority”) operates a federally-designated critical infrastructure system whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are so vital that their incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on the physical or economic security, and the public health and safety, to residential, commercial, and industrial users including hospitals, health care facilities, and nursing homes. Amidst a pandemic, the Authority-driven mission to deliver affordable potable water is the reason why public water systems have been designed as a “federally-designated critical infrastructure system.”

It is the Authority’s duty to prevent cyberattacks of their system such as accessing the Authority’s facilities through cloud-based, open portals and exploiting system vulnerabilities due to security breaches and unsupported software lacking the necessary security patches. As discussed in a previous attorney-client meeting, the Board of Commissioners and the Authority’s Executive staff agree that a thorough restructuring of the Information Technology Department is necessary to prevent these attacks along with the need to create positions for highly skilled security positions using civil service rules. Job specifications for Director Cybersecurity and Information Technology, Senior Systems Engineer and Operational Analyst & Solution Programmer were prepared by General Counsel have been approved by civil service.

The creations for these positions are on today’s agenda for the Board’s approval. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

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