



# COUNTY OF ERIE

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Brenton Davis,  
Erie County Executive

October 24, 2022

Erie County Courthouse  
140 West Sixth Street  
Erie, PA 16501

Commissioner Harris,

As a board member on Erie County's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, your actions while appointed to the DEI Commission are a direct reflection upon my Erie County Government. The allocation of the first round of DEI funding by the DEI Commission to the East Side Renaissance, an organization in which you hold leadership creates a perception which I cannot support nor project to the community.

It is not only my expectation, it is plainly stated in the ordinance which created the DEI Commission and in Erie County's Administrative Code that no appointee, family member, or his or her employer should be in a position to directly or indirectly benefit from his or her position on any board, authority, or commission.

Under Erie County Ordinance 72, 2021, Section 7 "Conflict of Interest" clearly states: "**No member or employee of the commission shall acquire any financial interest in funds received by Erie County** or used by the commission to fund third party recipients including, without limitation, for profit and non-profit concerns, government agencies or any other organizations, to fund contracts, projects, economic developments or any other commission endeavor. If a conflict of interest arises, the member or employee of the commission shall immediately disclose the conflict to the members of the commission, who shall thereafter enter the conflict upon the minute books of the commission and promptly notify County Council and the County Executive."

For the reasons above, you are removed from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Davis".

Brenton Davis  
Erie County Executive



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Commissioner Dixon,

It is inappropriate for you to sit on the DEI Commission as a board member while also serving an outside organization (as a paid board member) which has applied and was awarded funding from Diverse Erie. Your actions are a direct reflection upon Erie County Government and creates a perception which I cannot support nor project to the community.

Not only is it my expectation, it is plainly stated in the ordinance which created the DEI Commission and in Erie County's Administrative Code that no appointee, family member, or his or her employer should be in a position to directly or indirectly benefit from his or her position on any board, authority, or commission.

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For the reasons above, I have no choice but to remove you from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission, effective immediately. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Davis", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brenton Davis  
Erie County Executive