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Member Agencies

Action for Mental Health
Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services
American Red Cross
Belmont Shelter Corporation
Benedict House
Bissonette House
Buffalo City Mission
Buffalo Halfway House
Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority
Buffalo Psychiatric Center
Buffalo Public Schools
Buffalo Urban League
Catholic Charities of WNY
Cazenovia Recovery Systems
Child and Family Services
City of Buffalo
Community Action Organization
Community Health Center of Buffalo
Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo
Community Services Board
Community Services for the Dev. Disabled
Compass House
Cornerstone Manor
Crisis Services, Inc.
Erie County Dept. of Mental Health
Erie County Dept. of Senior Services
Erie County Dept. of Social Services
Food for All
Franciscan Center
Gerard Place
Greater Refuge Temple of Christ
Haven House
HELP Buffalo
Homespace Corporation
Housing Options Made Easy, Inc.
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Key Bank
Lake Shore Behavioral Health
Little Portion Friary
Living Opportunities of DePaul
M & T Bank
Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Center
Neighborhood Legal Services
Network of Religious Communities
New Life Residential
Paradise Opportunities, Inc.
Planned Parenthood
Rental Assistance Corporation
Restoration Society - Harbor House
The Salvation Army
Teaching and Restoring Youth
Transitional Services, Inc.
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
Veterans Administration
Veterans LifeOps
Women for Human Rights and Dignity
WNY Coalition for the Homeless
YWCA of the Tonawandas
YWCA of Western New York

Ms. Francine James
Appointments Secretary
Governor Eliot Spitzer
State Capitol
Albany NY 12224

Dear Ms. James:

I am writing to recommend Mark A. Dunlea, Esq., Associate Director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State to a position on the Food Policy Council of New York State, recently created by Executive Order of the Governor. I believe he would be appropriate either as a representative of an anti-hunger organization or a provider of food assistance.

Mr. Dunlea has worked at the Hunger Action Network of New York State for twenty-one years, including more than fifteen as Executive Director. Hunger Action provides support to food pantries and soup kitchens to increase their ability to feed hungry New Yorkers. The three thousand emergency food programs represented by Hunger Action Network provide assistance to more than 2 million New Yorkers annually.

For twenty-five years, Hunger Action has been the leading statewide anti-hunger group in New York State.

For the past three years, Mr. Dunlea has coordinated Hunger Action's work on food policy issues. In May 2005, he authored the report [A Community Food Security Agenda for New York](#), which included a recommendation to re-establish a Food Policy Council. The report addressed a wide range of agricultural issues in our state. Mr. Dunlea worked with the State Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy to convene hearings on the need for the Council and provided input into the legislation that was developed by Assemblymember Felix Ortiz and Senator Catherine Young.

Mr. Dunlea has a wide range of experience on anti-hunger and community food issues. During the late 1980's, he was an active participant on one of the advisory councils to the state Food Policy Council chaired by Dr. David Axelrod and played

an active role in the development of the 5 Year Plan development by the Council. He was selected last year by the National Conference of State Legislators to represent New York in a meeting of northeastern states about the work of Food Policy Councils.

Mr. Dunlea helped enact policies to expand the school breakfast program statewide and to speed up the application timeline for expedited food stamps during the Cuomo administration. He has successfully advocated for various reforms to expand participation in the various federal nutrition programs such as food stamps, WIC and summer meals. During the Cuomo administration he served on the Advisory Board of the NYS Office of Community Gardens, after having helped passed the legislation creating it. Mr. Dunlea worked with the Assembly Task Force on FFNP on issues such as food irradiation and was active in efforts to strengthen the Dairy Price Compact. Mr. Dunlea was a co-founder of the Nutrition Consortium of NYS.

Mr. Dunlea has extensive experience with state level environmental groups on various issues related to sustainable agriculture, use of pesticides, genetic engineering of food, and farmland preservation. He also served four years as a Town Board member in a rural community.

The Homeless Alliance of Western New York represents the interests of over 70 member agencies in Buffalo and Erie County. It is without reservation and with the strongest of endorsements, that the Homeless Alliance recommends that the Hunger Action Network be a participating member of the Food Policy Council and that Mr. Dunlea is an extremely qualified representative.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William T. O'Connell
Executive Director