



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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**Partial transcript of:
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority
Board Meeting, April 25, 2014
Fort Erie, Ontario (Canada)**

Topic: Transfer of property from the City of Buffalo to New York State

Duration: 1:34 ♦ Start time: 22:30 ♦ End time: 24:04

The following is a partial transcript of the April 25, 2014 monthly board meeting of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA) in Fort Erie, Ontario (Canada) regarding the transfer of City of Buffalo-owned property to New York State for matters related to the Peace Bridge. The following three individuals can be heard on the recording:

- *Anthony Masiello*, PBA Board Member appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo
- *Maria Lehman*, Project Manager for the New York State Department of Transportation assigned to the New York Gateway Connections Improvement Project
- *Sam Hoyt*, PBA Board Member appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo

Masiello: A quick question on that, because, you know, we have people that are against us on this. You know, the city owns it, they're going to sell it to the [NYSDOT], there's a process in city government for that to happen. You know, can we anticipate, you know, the opposition again using this as an opportunity to try to stop us?

Lehman: Yes we can anticipate that and yes we're on it. [The City of Buffalo Department of] Public Works is on the record—this is in the Real Estate Division of the city, and we are going to follow up with [the City of Buffalo's] Corporate Council next week.

Masiello: Cause there will be people—

Lehman: When they did the one-way on 4th Avenue, we were very quiet about it and didn't make a lot of noise, and made it as a part of a lot of transactions, and the opposition wasn't aware that that even happened when it happened.

Hoyt: Will it require [City of Buffalo] Common Council approval?

Lehman: Yes.

Masiello: Yes. That's why—that's why I asked the questions, because there's going to be a couple of people on the [city] Council who will use this again as another sounding

board for their position.

Lehman: Yes, right. But we've met with the Council President [Darius Pridgen], Council Member Rivera's office, as well as the [Council] Majority Leader [Demone Smith], and they helped us along on the process on 4th [Avenue]—they'll help us here.

Unknown: I'm not too sure what the current status is of this—

Lehman: It's in the Real Estate Division, and it will come to the Real Estate Division—the Real Estate Division is actually going to take it to the full [city] Council as a part of a whole lot of transactions instead of sending it to the Real Estate Committee, which is a subcommittee of [the city Council's] Community Development [Committee], which is chaired by [Council Member] Joe Golombek.

Masiello: We don't want that.

Lehman: Right.