

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 17, 2019**

**Urging Commonwealth and County Action to Bring the Erie Coke Corporation in Strict Compliance with All Applicable Environmental Regulations**

**WHEREAS**, the Erie Coke Corporation suffered significant waste water spills on March 19 and 31, 2019; just the latest in a history of problems and violations of environmental regulations which continue to place the health of Erie County citizens at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued an Administrative Order on February 4, 2019 demanding that Erie Coke Corporation take action to correct air quality violations it believes to be "ongoing and continuous over the last 18 months..."; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEP and Erie Coke entered into a Consent Decree to settle a series of unaddressed violations by the company from 2008 to 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, A Study by the Pennsylvania Department of Health showed that between 2008 and 2012, adults in Erie County have higher than average rates of Lung and Bronchus Cancers, further amplified by the Erie County Department of Health's Assessment in 2018, which showed high cancer rates in those "locations" continued through 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Erie County greatly values industry and the extensive economic benefits of employment, however we cannot trade those benefits for clean air and water; desiring the health of our citizens' stand as a beacon to ourselves, our visitors, to prospective residents and to future generations, along with our sparkling shores, sporting life, the arts and other attractions.

**RESOLVED**, The County Council of Erie County hereby supports the issuance of letters to the Pennsylvania Department Environmental Protection demanding that Erie Coke Corporation come into strict compliance with all applicable environmental regulations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Erie County Solicitor and the Erie County Department of Public Health:

1. Use all powers at their disposal to pressure Erie Coke to adhere to air and land pollution regulations.
2. Press DEP to pursue all enforcement with vigor to address a problem that goes beyond city borders and is affecting all County residents.

On the motion of Foust, seconded by Fatica, this resolution was passed on this 16th day of April, 2019 by a vote of 7 to 0.

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Fiore Leone, Chairman  
Erie County Council

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Dahlkemper,  
County Executive

Date: 4-16-19

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas R. Smith  
County Clerk

Date: 16 April 2019