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DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.  
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 9, 2022

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman  
Albany County Legislature  
112 State Street, Room 710  
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce:

Numerous Albany County Departments – including my staff, and others from the Department of Mental Health, Probation, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and the Department of Social Services – have supported and participated with other stakeholders (including the City of Albany, Albany Police Department, Sheriff, District Attorney, Center for Law & Justice, Central Ave Business Improvement District, and others) in the Albany Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) initiative since its inception in 2015. LEAD is founded on the principles of harm reduction when treating substance abuse, mental illness, poverty, and homelessness, as well as the intersection of these realities and the criminal justice system. The focus is not punishment, but rather offering support services. Frequently, clients who receive County services, including services from the Department of Mental Health, Probation, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and Department of Social Services, have contact with the LEAD initiative. At the request of the Policy Coordinating Group for LEAD (of which I'm a member), the State University of New York at Albany has offered to evaluate the efficacy and outcomes of LEAD. To aid this evaluation, SUNY Albany has requested to enter into a data sharing agreement with numerous County Executive-led Departments, specifically the Department of Mental Health and Probation Department. However, the County Executive is also requesting approval for other County Departments to opt into this data sharing agreement, should they also have pertinent data to contribute. The County Executive and the Probation and Mental Health Departments are hopeful the data review will produce better LEAD outcomes and seeks legislative approval to proceed.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader  
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader  
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel  
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel