



County of Erie

Erie County Courthouse

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Mary E. Schaaf

County Controller

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PRESS RELEASE: October 15, 2012

Mary Schaaf, the County Controller, calls the proposed creation of a new prison position of Inventory Coordinator costing \$40,584 by the County Executive, Barry Grossman, "an unnecessary waste of taxpayers' dollars". Honest employees doing their jobs is what is needed!

The Controller's Office has completed its independent investigation of alleged irregularities in payroll records and personal use of ammunition. She released her findings and recommendations today. Attached is a copy of that report.

Inventory control should continue to be the responsibility of current Prison employees, the Armorer and the Deputy Warden. Stronger supervision and implementation of clear policies by the Warden are necessary. Firearms training and certification of Prison employees is only held semiannually. The three NRA Certified Instructors qualify once a year. Ammunition usage can easily be documented using the Controller's Office's Inventory Control recommendations since it is not on a daily basis. What was lacking was that the system of checks and balances between the Armorer and Deputy Warden was not enforced.

Termination and prosecution of the few dishonest employees who may take advantage of their positions for personal gain sends a clear message of the County's no tolerance policy.

What would a full time Inventory Coordinator do every day? Adding an additional County employee while creating additional expense to the taxpayers is not necessary.

In summary, the Controller believes effective supervision and the immediate implementation of our clear policies should resolve these problems at no additional cost to the taxpayers!

Ms. Schaaf will hold a news conference today at the 3PM at the Controller's Office, Room 107, Erie County Courthouse.