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Legislature looks to end OT loophole for Sheriff's Office

Polonczak still sees 'abuse' in holiday pay policy

SANDRA TAN
News Staff Reporter

Last year was the first year that high-ranking appointees in the Erie County Sheriff's Office were prohibited — along with all other top-ranking county appointees — from receiving overtime, but most of a provision allowing them to collect overtime pay for working on holidays.

More than half of them collected at least twice as much holiday pay in 2021 than in 2022.

County legislators are now deliberating a resolution to put a stop to that. The resolution directs the county personnel commission to set uniform policies regarding personal compensation for all employees, including all nonunion, salaried appointees. The resolution explicitly states that any employee not entitled to regular overtime pay is also not entitled to receive time-and-a-half for working on holidays.

Currently, Sheriff's Office appointees receive worked-holiday pay on top of their regular paid holiday time, similar to union employees.

Sheriff John Garcia said that if the County Legislature directs that his top administrators should not receive overtime for working on holidays, he'll abide by that.

He also said his office has been playing by the rules from the beginning and that



Kiara Johnson kisses her son, Joseph, after helping University of Buffalo in Amherst in October. After adding 10 points to UB's score, contributing to the

A BASKET AND SC

Making her comeback after UB's Kiara Johnson is not you

BY RACHEL LENZI/NEWS
PHOTOS BY LIBBY MARC



Kiara Johnson leaps up to grab a rebound against Daemen University at the University of Buffalo.

IRS launches

ANN CARRIES
New York Times

The IRS is rolling out a free option for filing federal tax returns this year to some residents of a dozen states.

Last month, the agency published details of its plan to test an in-house filing system, in which taxpayers submit their federal tax returns directly to the agency online at no cost. Residents of 12 states are eligible to participate if they meet certain criteria.

"This is a critical step forward for this innovative effort that will test the feasibility of providing taxpayers a new option to file their returns for free directly with the IRS," Danny Wertheim, the agency's commissioner, said in a recent statement.

While the direct filing system is starting on a limited basis, it has already faced some resistance, particularly from commercial tax preparation companies.

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