

Keep Our Library Public
PO Box 8361
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<https://keepourlibrarypublic.com/>

December 24, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

On December 2 and 3, 2025, the parties met in-person at the Erie County Courthouse for court-facilitated mediation. After two days, the parties reached a tentative settlement, at which time the Court ordered the terms of settlement to be finalized by a proposed Consent Order of Court no later than December 19, 2025. That Consent Order was timely submitted on December 19th on behalf of all parties.

KOLP, Gannon University, Erie County Council, and the Erie County Executive worked diligently to arrive at the submitted Consent Order. Importantly, the Consent Order provides for additional process and oversight before any County Library real estate is leased or sold in the future.

This Order includes an amendment to the lease between Erie County and Gannon for the Blasco Library space. The initial term has been reduced from 25 years to ten. The ability of Gannon to use common areas has been rolled back to place Gannon on the same footing as the public.

The Consent Order also includes a Memorandum of Understanding between Gannon and the County Executive. Under this MOU, Gannon and the County will work collaboratively to enhance the Erie County Public Library through the collection of data as well as annual membership drives and library programming. The MOU further provides that Gannon will allow library members access to the unique resources of its own Nash Library.

We believe the agreement package sets guardrails as to what elected officials can do with Library assets and ensures fulfillment of Dr. Blasco's vision for his bequest to Erie County.

This was never about KOLP or about politics as some may have portrayed it; it was all about Blasco Library. In that sense, we believe this is a win for the library and for Erie County taxpayers.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support both Blasco Library and KOLP throughout this legal action. We are glad to see this amicable resolution. We look forward to seeing how the MOU will benefit and grow the Erie County Library for all residents of Erie County.