



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release

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Haney Calls for Water Authority Resignations

Board Members Failed Ratepayers

Rochester, New York – September 13, 2006: Monroe County Legislator Paul Haney, D-Rochester, is calling for the resignations of three Monroe County Water Authority Board members, claiming that their dereliction of duty will ultimately cost local and state taxpayers over one million dollars.

On August 14th the New York State Comptroller released an audit indicating that nearly \$500,000 in excessive and unearned salary and benefits was inappropriately paid to six officials at the Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA). According to the audit, former Executive Director John Stanwix received questionable compensation totaling nearly \$300,000.

Haney's proposal goes one step further by taking into consideration the additional long-term pension and health benefits costs to be incurred due to the Board's lax oversight. Based on life expectancy statistics, it is estimated that an additional \$487,500 in retirement benefits and \$160,000 in health insurance costs will be paid out to officials and their dependents.

"We have all been shocked by the disclosures recently made in the audit report released by the State Comptroller regarding the Monroe County Water Authority. I believe that the report has underestimated the cost of this scandal. It is clear that the real cost of this dereliction of duty is well in excess of \$1,100,000," said Haney, "The community would be best served if the three members who participated in this fiasco would resign."

The proposal has unanimous support of the Democratic legislators. It will be deliberated at the next Ways and Means Committee meeting scheduled for October 4th at 6:00 pm.

A copy of the proposal is attached.

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