



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Haney Calls for Telecom and Utility Audit

Second Blueprint Proposal Hits Ways & Means Committee Tonight

Rochester, New York – May 25, 2006: This evening, the Monroe County Legislature Ways & Means Committee will review Legislator Paul Haney's proposal calling for an independent audit to determine the County's losses due to telecommunications and utility over-billing errors and to obtain reimbursement for them. This proposal is a step towards accomplishing the goals set forth in the Blueprint for Progress released by the Democrats last month.

The Blueprint for Progress considers innovative, bipartisan solutions to the County's fiscal crisis, solutions that are viable and sustainable, and do not raise county property or sales taxes.

In his proposal, Haney refers to the 2004 County Budget Advisory Team report which states that an estimated \$25,000 to \$75,000 are lost annually due to billing errors. The BAT report further indicates that Monroe County could see significant savings by installing a more efficient telecommunications invoice management system.

Haney requests that the County retain an independent consultant to uncover billing errors and investigate the most effective means of reducing unnecessary utility and telecommunications charges. Consultant fees would be funded from the savings achieved.

The Democrats believe that Monroe County's fiscal crisis must be addressed by looking at solutions from the entire community without regard to party affiliation, and this proposal incorporates ideas that were initially put forth by Republican legislators.

"We need to look for innovative solutions to the County's budget crisis," said Legislator Haney, "and we should leave no stone unturned."

Ways & Means Committee meets this evening at 6:00 p.m. A copy of the proposal is attached.

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