



Press Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release
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Democrats Want County Legislature to Investigate Water Authority Abuses

Rochester, New York – August 16, 2006: Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature are calling for an investigation into abuses of power at the Monroe County Water Authority.

An audit recently released by the New York State Comptroller revealed that nearly half a million dollars in unearned salary and benefits was inappropriately paid to six officials at the water authority during a five-year period.

Members of the Democratic Caucus submitted a proposal today calling on the county legislature to thoroughly investigate the lapses of oversight and irregularities of conduct uncovered by the audit.

“The county legislature has a responsibility to its constituents to ensure that this public entity maintains proper standards of conduct. An internal review by water authority officials is not sufficient to address the gross misconduct discovered by the comptroller. An investigation by the legislature is clearly needed to determine the nature and extent of violations that may have been committed,” says Legislator Travis Heider, a newly appointed legislative liaison to the authority.

The legislature will have the power to hold hearings and issue subpoenas in the course of its investigation. The investigation will also include in its findings recommendations for new laws and rules of procedure that can serve to prevent future misconduct.

“The water authority must be held accountable to the hundreds of thousands of ratepayers from whom its revenues are drawn,” says Heider.

A copy of the proposal is attached.

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