



## Media Release

### Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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## Democratic Caucus Withdraws Support of Zyra's Public Defender Selection Process

**Rochester, New York – December 19, 2007.** Minority Leader Harry Bronson in a letter to Legislature President Wayne Zyra today withdrew his support for the public defender selection process as it currently stands. The letter indicated Bronson would not be submitting the name of an appointee to serve on the selection committee because the process as currently configured is not strictly a merit-based selection process. Citing the lack of community support, **Minority Leader Harry Bronson** further expressed hope for a return to the process used to 1977.

"It is necessary to work together to retain the confidence of the community with a screening committee that is diverse and manifestly impartial, with the goal that the process be objective, and the selection, merit-based," said **Bronson**.

The 1977 process relied on a selection committee composed of three judges, three lawyers, and three voting community members to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the County Legislature. "A return to an impartial process, such as the one used in 1977, is the best way to find a new public defender based on a candidate's merits," said **Bronson**.

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