



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release

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County Democrats Probe \$13 Million Contract Deal Tied to Political Donor

Rochester, New York – June 13, 2007: A \$13 million, twelve-year contract for leased copier management services with Siemens Building Technologies of Rochester came under fire from County Democrats last night. During the Full Legislature meeting, Democratic legislators raised serious concerns about the proposal which was submitted by the County Executive. Although the contract names Upstate Telecommunications Corporation (UTC) as the chosen vendor, county officials stated during debate that Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. would administer the deal. UTC, a local development corporation was formed by the County Administration at the recommendation of none other than Siemens Building Technologies.

According to state board of elections filings, since 2000, Siemens Building Technologies and its officials have contributed nearly \$65,000 to the Monroe County Republican Committee and County Executive Brooks.

“UTC is a shell. There is no question that Siemens will be fulfilling this contract, even though it provided a substandard response to the County Administration’s Request for Qualifications, under the cover of UTC,” said Legislative Minority Leader **Carla Palumbo**. Five companies responded to the RFQ, including Xerox, Danka and Toshiba.

As stated by Legislator **Paul Haney** (D-Rochester), Siemens is currently under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Securities Exchange Commission. Earlier this year, two former Siemens executives were convicted of bribery, and the company was ordered to pay a fine of \$51.4 million by a German court. The company is also under investigation in Italy, Greece, Liechtenstein and Austria.

Siemens Medical Solutions, USA, a subsidiary based in Chicago, recently pled guilty to charges of obstruction of justice. Siemens officials admittedly lied during their trial, provided false information and withheld testimony of managers (USA vs. Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc, US District Court, Northern District, Docket #05 CR 792-3). In 2004, Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. was found in violation by the National Labor Relations Board regarding their operation of the Iola Power Plant (NLRB Case #3-CA-24050).

Legislator Haney’s motion to send the proposal back to the Legislature Ways & Means Committee for further review and fact finding was rejected by Republican legislators.

“Based on the information presented tonight regarding Siemens, we need to pause and reconsider whether we should continue to do business with this company,” said Legislator **Ted O’ Brien** (D-Irondequoit).

The entire Republican Majority voted to give the contract to Siemens over the objections and nay votes of Democratic Legislators.

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