



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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Democrats Unveil Kids First Plan

Fair to Taxpayers • Saves Schools • Balances Budget • Puts Kids First

Rochester, New York – December 11, 2007. The Democratic Caucus of the Monroe County Legislature today unveiled their alternative vision for Monroe County's 2008 budget with a plan that prioritizes Monroe County's children. Aptly named **Kids First**, the plan centers on restoring funding stripped from the county's suburban school districts by instituting equitable funding for the Monroe County Sheriff's department road patrol.

"This plan sets our priorities straight," said legislator **Ted O'Brien (D-Irondequoit)**. "Without causing an interruption in the quality of our Sheriff's road patrol we can restore funding to our suburban school districts. It's only fair to put our kids first."

The plan would create a Road Patrol chargeback similar to the County Executive's MCC chargeback. Towns and villages that have access to the Sheriff's road patrol would be billed for the service. Those communities that have their own police department and do not utilize the road patrol would not be charged for the service.

"The **Kids First** plan would make no operational changes to the Sheriff's road patrol, it simply changes the way the service is funded," said **Minority Leader Harry Bronson**.

The \$28 Million funding swap would then be used to restore funding to the suburban school districts. Democrats plan to introduce the amendment during budget debate at this evenings meeting of the legislature.

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