



## Media Release

### Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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#### For Immediate Release

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### Esposito Releases Statement on County Ethics Training

**Rochester, New York – December 16, 2011.** The following is a statement from Legislator Vincent Esposito (D-Irondequoit) regarding Monroe County's online ethics training:

“On March 16, 2011 I co-sponsored a referral to require Monroe County Legislators to complete online ethics training, joining all administration employees as directed by the County Executive in response to a series of ethical lapses and incidents. A similar resolution was subsequently signed by all 29 legislators.

“On December 14, 2011, after months of requests via emails, letters, floor debates, staff correspondence and even a Freedom of Information request, the County Human Resources Department finally provided the Democratic Staff Office with instructions that allowed Democratic Legislators to complete the training. On December 15, I successfully completed this training as intended for nearly nine months.

“This has proven to be an unfortunate episode. At best, it represents a woeful failure of the Brooks Administration to properly execute a legislative resolution. At worst, it is a troubling abuse of government resources for political purposes, especially considering the use of information from the HR Department within Republican campaign literature this past election season. It is ironic that this all happened following a unanimous effort to improve the ethical conduct within county government.

“To date, a FOIL request on this matter – due on November 30<sup>th</sup> – has still not been answered. There remains many unanswered questions with serious implications about the proper separation of powers between the executive and legislative branch of county government and also the proper distinction that should exist between politics and governing.

“I would like to thank my colleagues, including six members of the Republican majority, who voted to approve a budget amendment that removed inaccurate and inappropriate language from the HR Department budget on the issue of ethics training.

“In the coming days all Democratic legislators will complete this training. It is my hope that Monroe County government will be able to overcome such petty political squabbles in the future to instill a truly ethical environment in which all citizens of our community are treated with respect and have confidence that their county government is working in good faith to serve the public trust.”

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