



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release

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Democrats Continue Push for an Open Defender Selection Process

Rochester, New York – January 17, 2008. Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature today released a proposal that will ensure a non-partisan Public Defender selection process that is inclusive of the community and open to public scrutiny.

The Democratic Caucus introduced the proposal for immediate consideration yesterday and remains hopeful it will be placed on the agenda for the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

“We simply can not accept any solution to this controversy that excludes the public,” Calvin Lee (D-Rochester) said. “Last night’s meeting made clear that the Republican Majority would rather conduct their business behind closed doors and out of the public’s watchful eye. The Republican Majority’s actions are a slap in the face to open Government,” Lee continued.

Legislators Calvin Lee, Dick Beebe (D-Greece), Stephen Eckel (D-Rochester) and Willie Lightfoot (D-Rochester) sit on the Public Safety Committee.

“We’re cautiously optimistic that the Majority will recognize the profound public interest in this critical issue,” Dick Beebe said. “We must establish the selection process in a manner that’s fully open to public scrutiny. There is simply no legitimate reason not to do so,” Beebe continued.

Democratic Legislators remain willing to have an open, public dialogue with the Republican Majority, members of the religious and non-profit community, as well as the public at-large.

(Please find the proposal attached)

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