



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release

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Democrats Disappointed in Continuation of Selection Process

Rochester, New York – February 9, 2008. County Legislature Democrats are disappointed with the Republican Majority's refusal to allow a transparent, merit-based selection process for our next public defender.

At this morning's meeting of the Public Safety Committee, community activists protested the Republican Majority's attempt to stifle public involvement in the selection process. When Democratic members of the Public Safety Committee attempted to keep the meeting open to the public, the Republican Majority refused to continue the meeting as long as the public was present.

Minority Leader Harry Bronson, D-Rochester, Henrietta and Brighton, said "A closed meeting approach is in violation of the public's trust at a minimum and possibly violates the Open Meetings Law. The Republicans continue to ignore the unanimous calls from our community to ensure we select our next public defender in a transparent, merit-based process. The Majority's actions are an affront to any sense of meaningful representation and community involvement."

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