



# Media Release

## Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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### For Immediate Release

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## Democrats Issue New Call for Renaissance Square Oversight

**Rochester, New York – May 13, 2008.** Democrats in the Monroe County Legislature have re-introduced legislation creating a bipartisan Legislative Review Panel to oversee the County portion of the Renaissance Square Project and its finances.

The Legislation, originally submitted February 10, 2008, was rejected by the President of the Legislature because the County Attorney opined that the Legislature has no authority to review the activities of a local development corporation (LDC). Democrats disagree with the President based on the Contract between the County and the Main & Clinton LDC which states (see Section 6) that all the letters, documents, reports and other data developed during the period of the Contract are the joint property of the County, RGRTA and the LDC.

The proposed Legislation calls for the creation of an eight member, bi-partisan panel comprised of four appointments by the Majority and Minority Leaders. The panel's intended tasks would include the following:

- Create an outline and listing of all project management staff and salaries.
- Determine what the \$16 million has been spent on.
- Locate all project funding sources, including all private funding sources
- Verify what services have been performed by the various contracted parties to date and compensation paid for said services.
  - Review all newly authorized contracts of Main & Clinton Local Development Corp.
  - Determine the status of the federal appointments.
  - All other information deemed relevant to the project.

“This Legislature is a regulatory body with jurisdiction over the County government and its activities. We were elected to serve in this capacity by the residents and taxpayers of Monroe County and we intend on fulfilling that duty,” said Legislator Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester).

Legislator Paul Haney (D-Rochester, Brighton) said “The County is contractually obligated to pay an estimated \$802,473.46 for the Preliminary Design Phase of this Project. This Legislature has the duty and obligation to monitor and review these expenses and all related documentation.”

“In order to truly protect taxpayers, it is imperative that the Legislature exercise its oversight duties and create this panel to oversee the County's involvement in this project,” Democratic Leader Harry Bronson (D-Rochester, Brighton & Henrietta) said.

Please find the referral and a copy of the Main & Clinton contract attached.

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