

## Monroe County Legislature

**HARRY B. BRONSON**  
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY LEADER

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No. <u>090260</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
<b>AGENDA/CHARTER</b>

August 7, 2009

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

**Re: Authorizing a Special Citizen Advisory Panel to Examine County Fiscal Controls and Employee Oversight Practices as Related to the Criminal Investigation of the Robutrad Corruption Scandal**

Honorable Legislators:

Recently, federal authorities filed a criminal complaint outlining corruption within county government that has been estimated to cost taxpayers over one million dollars over a four year period, and potentially longer. These illegal activities were able to progress for several years undetected. Clearly, the County Administration's internal system of fiscal controls and employee oversight failed to prevent and detect significant employee wrongdoing and must be reviewed and improved.

Therefore, pursuant to Article II, Section C2-6 (C)(5) of the Monroe County Charter, this Honorable Body hereby creates a temporary advisory board of citizens for the purpose of conducting an independent ethics and operational practices inquiry to examine county policies and procedures as they pertain to the employee misconduct and corruption detailed in or related to the criminal investigation of the former Monroe County Superintendent of Maintenance and Construction. This temporary advisory board of citizens shall make recommendations to the Legislature regarding new operational policies and practices that will help safeguard against future employee misconduct.

The temporary advisory board of citizens will include three members to be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Legislature, three members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Legislature, and one member to be chosen jointly by a majority of the six board members appointed by the Legislature to serve for a term that will expire upon the issuance of their recommendations. The temporary advisory board of citizens shall be appointed within 30 days after the passage of this



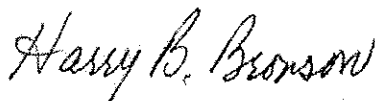
proposal and commence its review within fourteen days of the appointment deadline. Upon the conclusion of the inquiry, a detailed report that includes its findings and recommendations shall be presented by the temporary advisory board of citizens to the Legislature.

This action will officially authorize the citizens advisory panel to examine County ethical, fiscal and management oversight practices by charging the temporary advisory board of citizens with reviewing all irregularities of conduct and malfeasance outlined in the federal criminal complaint filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on June 18, 2009, Case No. 09mj4099, including any conduct incidental to information contained in the complaint. The independent review shall not only determine the nature and extent of violations that may have been committed, but will also include in its public findings recommendations for such new laws, by-laws and rules of procedure that will serve to prevent future abuses or lapses of conduct.


It is incumbent upon this Honorable Body to lead a public inquiry into a fraud scheme that has cost Monroe County taxpayers an estimated \$1 million. A chief objective of this inquiry, which will be independent of the executive branch of county government, is to determine what led to the breakdown in the county's system of fiscal controls and management protocols that allowed county funds to be continuously disbursed for project work not being completed and to make recommendations on how to prevent a recurrence of such misconduct and abuse. The panel shall consult on an as needed basis with the United States Attorney's Office or the Monroe County District Attorney's Office to ensure the concurrent law enforcement investigations are not compromised.

This proposal will have no effect on the 2009 Monroe County Budget.

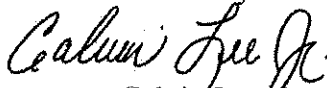
Respectfully Submitted,



Harry B. Bronson  
Democratic Minority Leader



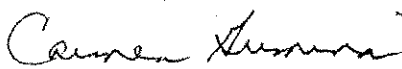
Carrie M. Andrews  
Assistant Minority Leader



Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe  
Legislator – District 6



Carmen F. Gumina  
Legislator – District 8



Travis R. Heider  
Legislator – District 14



Vincent Esposito  
Legislator – District 16



Ted O'Brien  
Legislator – District 17



Glenn J. Gamble  
Legislator – District 22



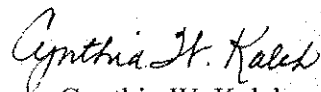
Paul E. Haney  
Legislator – District 23



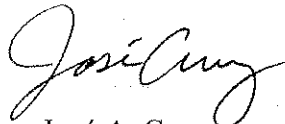
C. Stephen Eckel  
Legislator - District 26



Willie Joe Lightfoot  
Legislator - District 27



Cynthia W. Kaleh  
Legislator - District 28



José A. Cruz  
Legislator - District 29