



Monroe County Legislature

HARRY B. BRONSON
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY LEADER

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May 12, 2008

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

**Re: Enacting a Local Law Entitled "Providing for an Itemized List of
Funded and Unfunded Mandates"**

Honorable Legislators:

This County is facing a perpetually deteriorating financial condition. The public has been repeatedly told by the Administration that the predominant force driving this crisis is the financial burden resulting from services we are mandated to provide by a higher level of government.

It has become an increasing concern to hear these claims made, only to see little to no substantive evidence provided to support them. On April 28, 2008 we saw the County Administration publicly state that unfunded State mandates will cost Monroe County \$855 million in 2008, a staggering amount which rivals Monroe County's 2008 enacted operating budget of about \$865 million.

To be sure, mandated services likely play a significant role in our County's finances. Even if expenses are mandated, it does not necessarily follow that they are all unfunded State mandates, because many of our mandated expenses are partially or fully funded by the State. Furthermore, the Federal government also mandates we provide certain services, some of which we receive funding to provide.

A true solution to our budget crisis requires a thorough analysis and itemization of all expenses which are determined to be mandated and which of those mandates are fully or partially funded through the State and/or the Federal government.

As the appropriating body of Monroe County, we must fully understand the accurate burdens of funded and unfunded mandates. This will require a greater level of detail and

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transparency in our budget process, which must include a meaningful effort to share accurate and complete financial information with the Legislature.

To this end, I propose the attached Local Law be adopted.

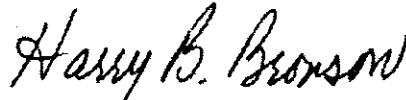
This proposed local law will have no impact on the revenues and/or expenditures of the 2008 Monroe County Budget.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Schedule and hold a public hearing on the proposed local law.
2. Enact a local law amending the Monroe County Charter, as attached.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,



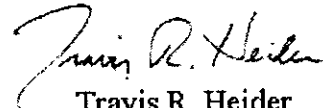
Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe
Legislator - District 6



Travis R. Heider
Legislator - District 14



Vincent Esposito
Legislator - District 16




Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17



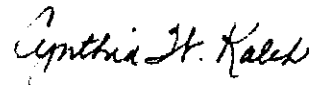
Paul E. Haney
Legislator - District 23



C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26



Willie Joe Lightfoot
Legislator - District 27



Cynthia W. Kaleb
Legislator - District 28

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. _____

LOCAL LAW NO. _____ OF 2008

A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "PROVIDING FOR AN ITEMIZED LIST OF FUNDED AND UNFUNDED MANDATES"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. Section §A6-5(B) of the Administrative Code of Monroe County is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ A6-5(B). Proposed operating budget; information required

B. Form of budget. The proposed operating budget shall be in such form as the County Executive may deem advisable and shall be developed and presented in two separate categories representing spending and all funding sources for mandated and non-mandated services. The mandated category shall be divided into three (3) subdivision, unfunded mandated services, partially funded mandated services, and fully funded mandates services. Each subdivision shall be presented in a manner that fully discloses the level of Federal, State, Local and/or other type of funding source which are associated with the mandated service. The mandated and nonmandated categories shall be further developed and presented to reflect spending and funding sources attributable to all the departments under the control of each County entity. ~~the following entities: County Executive, Sheriff, County Clerk, District Attorney and County Legislature.~~ The proposed operating budget shall show in parallel columns the following comparative information: the actual expenditures and receipts for the last completed fiscal year; the budget as modified for the current fiscal year; the estimates of expenditures and revenues for the ensuing fiscal year submitted by the heads of the various departments, other administrative units and authorized agencies; and the County Executive's recommendations and estimates as to expenditures and revenues for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Municipal Home Rule Law and immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State as provided for in Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

File No. 08-0 _____ LL

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LOCAL LAW: _____

Added Language is underlined
Deleted Language is ~~stricken~~