



Monroe County Legislature

C. STEPHEN ECKEL

LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 26

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July 9, 2007

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

Re: Posting Public Meeting Agendas and Minutes on the County's Website

Honorable Legislators:

Visitors to Monroe County's website can download a voter registration form, search the County Clerk's records, view public bids, make a parks reservation, apply for civil service exams, see current traffic incidents, and view their tax bills, among many other activities. This is tremendously convenient and a wonderful service for the County to provide to its residents. But in one crucial area the County's website falls short. A visitor to the Legislature section of the site, trying to learn the fate of a recently proposed piece of legislation, would be out of luck. The minutes of the most recent County Legislature meeting are not posted, nor are the minutes of any standing committee meeting, agendas for upcoming meetings, or copies of pending legislation.

Certainly, providing information pertaining to the Legislature and its public meetings cannot be considered any less important than the other services offered on the site. The Legislature is the policy-making body of our County, and the decisions we make impact the lives of all County residents. As of the submission of this referral, the only documents relating to recent legislative business that are posted on the website, are some legal notices dating back to May and the minutes of a Full Legislature meeting that took place three months ago.

It is true that agendas and minutes can be obtained upon request from the Clerk of the Legislature. But, in this day and age, citizens expect their government to provide these types of documents via the web. And Monroe County should be taking advantage of the website's enormous potential to improve government transparency, to encourage citizen participation, and to quickly and easily disseminate routine government documents to the public.

Therefore, we request that this Honorable Body amend the Rules of the Legislature to require that preliminary agendas for meetings of the Full Legislature and standing committees be posted on the County's website twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meetings, and that the minutes of all

Full Legislature and standing committee meetings be posted on the County's website within three (3) business days after the meeting.

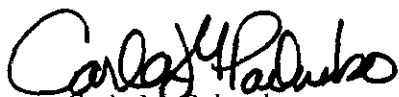
Specific legislative action required:

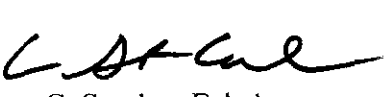
Amend Article II of the Rules of the Legislature of the County of Monroe, to add section 545-10.1 to read as follows:

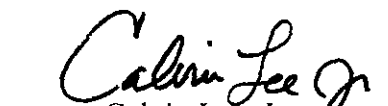
“Preliminary agendas for meetings of the Full Legislature and its standing committees must be posted on the County's website at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meetings, and the minutes of all Full Legislature and standing committee meetings must be posted on the County's website within three (3) business days after the meeting”


This proposal will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the 2007 Monroe County Budget, as it will be achieved with current personnel and resources.


Respectfully submitted,



Carla M. Palumbo
Democratic Leader



C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator – District 26



Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Democratic Leader



Harry B. Bronson
Assistant Democratic Leader



Travis R. Heider
Legislator – District 14



Stephanie Polowe Aldersley
Legislator – District 16



Ted O'Brien
Legislator – District 17


Carrie M. Andrews
Legislator – District 21


Glenn J. Gamble
Legislator – District 22


Paul E. Haney
Legislator – District 23


Willie J. Lightfoot
Legislator – District 27


José A. Cruz
Legislator – District 29