



## Monroe County Legislature

**VINCENT ESPOSITO**

LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 16

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September 23, 2011

### **Re: Changing the Operating Schedule of the Irondequoit Bay Outlet Bridge**

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing to keep you and your family informed of discussions concerning the operating schedule for the Irondequoit Bay Outlet Bridge. As you may be aware, the “Swing Bridge” is currently open to vehicle traffic only five months of the year, from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Last week, I formally requested the United States Coast Guard make the schedule more equitable by opening the bridge to vehicles a month earlier, on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A copy of that letter is available at [democraticledger.org/Esposito.html](http://democraticledger.org/Esposito.html).

To date, the Coast Guard has been unwilling to approve a schedule change, claiming it would increase response times to emergencies on the bay. However, after speaking to local emergency personnel who are the first to respond to any bay emergency, I have been assured the Coast Guard’s assumption is inaccurate and that opening the bridge to motorists would not impede public safety.

Please join me in letting the Coast Guard know you support an October 1<sup>st</sup> opening by contacting, Rear Admiral Michael Parks, the Commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District. You can write Admiral Parks at the District Nine Command Center, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44199-2060 or reach him by phone at (216) 902-6118.

A new operating schedule is not a permanent solution. Since taking office in 2008, I have been working towards the goal of securing capital funds to either replace or upgrade our existing bridge with one that provides year-round service to both vehicles and boats. The bridge is critical as an evacuation route in the event of an emergency, and remains an important economic asset not only for Seabreeze, but all of Irondequoit.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. If you would like to be updated about developments on this issue via email, please contact Jamie Romeo at [jromeo@monroecounty.gov](mailto:jromeo@monroecounty.gov). And please feel free to contact me any time I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Vincent Esposito  
Legislator – District 16