



# *Monroe County Legislature*

**GLENN J. GAMBLE**  
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 22

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July 9, 2007

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

**Re: Posting Video Recordings of Monroe County Legislature Meetings on the Internet**

Honorable Legislators:

Democratic governments benefit greatly from the participation of well-informed citizens. It is every elected official's responsibility to encourage and facilitate public involvement in government by conducting public business in an open manner, to provide citizens with better insight into the political decision-making process, and to maintain the public's trust.

Across the country, from state capitols to village halls, elected officials are using new technologies to bring government closer to the people through the televising and webcasting of public meetings. Americans today have unprecedented opportunities to watch their elected representatives at work and, from their own living rooms, are witnessing the creation of public policy at every level of government. Increasing access to public meetings through broadcasting improves the ability of governments to engage the public's interest, helps citizens better understand the legislative process, and improves their ability to hold elected officials accountable.

The Internet in particular has tremendous potential to assist local governments in strengthening their relationship with the public that they serve. To date, Monroe County has made little use of new technologies to ensure that legislative business is carried out in as transparent a manner as possible. Posting video recordings of legislature meetings on the Internet would allow more citizens to observe the meetings, whether or not they can attend in person, and would create an archive of the meetings for future reference. Therefore, we request that this Honorable Body amend the Rules of the Legislature to require that all meetings of the Monroe County Legislature and its standing committees be videotaped starting March 1, 2008, and that the video recordings be posted on the Internet.



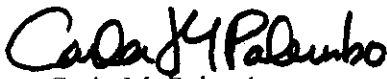
This proposal shall have no impact on the revenues and expenditures of the 2007 Monroe County Budget. It is recommended that 2008 expenses associated with this action be absorbed by the Clerk of the Legislature.

**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:

“All meetings of the Monroe County Legislature and its standing committees shall be videotaped starting March 1, 2008, and the video recordings shall be posted on the Internet.”

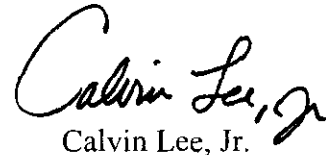
Respectfully submitted,



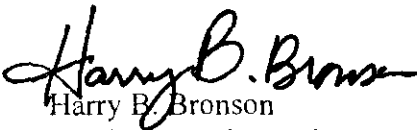
Carla M. Palumbo  
Democratic Leader



Glenn J. Gamble  
Legislator – District 22



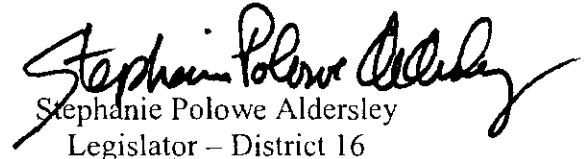
Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Democratic Leader



Harry B. Bronson  
Assistant Democratic Leader



Travis R. Heider  
Legislator – District 14



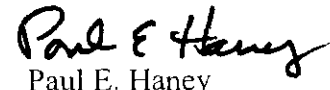
Stephanie Polowe Aldersley  
Legislator – District 16



Ted O'Brien  
Legislator – District 17



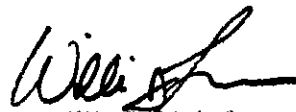
Carrie M. Andrews  
Legislator – District 21



Paul E. Haney  
Legislator – District 23



C. Stephen Eckel  
Legislator – District 26



Willie J. Lightfoot  
Legislator – District 27



José A. Cruz  
Legislator – District 29