



Monroe County Legislature

GEORGE J. HEBERT

LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 15

May 11, 2021

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No. <u>210168</u>	
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
URGENT	-L

Subject: Addressing Homelessness in Civic Center Parking Garage (55 S. Fitzhugh St.)

Honorable Legislators:

Homelessness is an issue that impacts not only those without proper shelter but the entire community. The issue is not limited to one area; homelessness is a broad and wide-spread concern in many parts of New York State, including Monroe County. Every person deserves a safe place to sleep at night and every person deserves to feel safe to freely travel, park and explore Monroe County.

In addressing homelessness, it is imperative to seek the underlying causes driving this condition. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, insufficient income and lack of affordable housing are the leading causes of homelessness. In 2020, it marked the fourth consecutive year that homelessness had increased in the United States. This is a socio-economic and equality issue that must be addressed before another year of increased homelessness with no action.

In Monroe County, a report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness showed that on any given night in our County there are approximately 835 people without a home or safe place to sleep. We have seen the result of this first-hand within the County-owned Civic Center Parking Garage, each night, individuals without safe housing flock to the garage for its enclosed shelter and heat. However, there have been wide-spread reports of patrons and employees of the garage being harassed, threatened, stalked, reports of fires being set, objects being thrown and public urination and defecation.

This issue is not going to be addressed by yet another 'workgroup' that will produce a report several weeks or even months from now; this issue must be addressed properly and rapidly. With this being a problem in the Civic Center, it is our duty as elected officials to provide for the safety of all those in Monroe County. The root causes of homelessness have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and it is imperative these origins are remedied. Patrons, workers and those who utilize the Civic Center Parking Garage deserve to be safe to commute and park, while those who have sought out the Civic Center Parking Garage in desperation deserve help.

The Civic Center Parking Garage is not safe housing for anyone. From moving cars to built-up carbon monoxide fumes to an airborne pandemic; truly safe housing options must be found for those who have turned here. All relevant public and private ordinances, regulations and restrictions must be enforced to maintain safety and property rights. It is not a binary choice between upholding our safety and property laws and supporting those in need of help.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Request that County Executive Adam Bello and all applicable public authorities enforce existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to the Civic Center Parking Garage located at 55 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.
2. Request that County Executive Adam Bello commit to utilizing funds in a reasonable amount from the American Rescue Plan approved by the Monroe County Legislators to provide safe-housing options for all individuals displaced from the Civic Center Parking Garage.

This is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c) (26) (“routine of continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment”) and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This action will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



George Hebert
Monroe County Legislator
District 15

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. _____

RESOLUTION NO. ___ OF 2021

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CIVIC CENTER PARKING GARAGE

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

Section 1. The Legislature hereby requests that the County Executive and all applicable public authorities enforce existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to the Civic Center Parking Garage located at 55 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614.

Section 2. The Legislature hereby requests that the County Executive commit to utilizing funds from the American Rescue Plan to provide safe-housing options for all individuals displaced from the Civic Center Parking Garage.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

Matter of Urgency
File No. 21-0_____

ADOPTION: Date: _____

Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION: _____