



Monroe County Legislature

Office of the President

DR. JOE CARBONE
PRESIDENT

August 9, 2021

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, NY 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. <u>210292</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County
AGENDA/CHARTER
Committee Assignment: <u>1-L</u>

Subject: Creation of a Special Committee to Examine and Revise the Monroe County Code of Ethics

Honorable Legislators:

Monroe County is home to nearly 740,000 residents, all of whom deserve honest and ethical representation from elected leaders and the employees of Monroe County government. This Honorable Body has the duty to go above and beyond to ensure that the integrity of Monroe County government is upheld.

Over the past year, our community has grappled with rampant abuse of power, most notably by Governor Andrew Cuomo from the most powerful office in New York State. These incidents grow mistrust within our community and stifle our ability to be effective leaders. We cannot allow for harassment, impropriety, or corruption to interfere with the tasks we've been entrusted to perform.

The Monroe County Code of Ethics has not been reviewed in full since its creation, furthermore it has not even been updated in nearly a decade. It has become abundantly clear that the Code of Ethics is in desperate need of thorough examination and revision. There are several flaws within the code, including the current composition of the Board of Ethics, which has allowed for blatant partisanship and bias to exist within a Body that should be inherently apolitical.

It is important that this special committee be insulated from political pressure. For this reason, this special committee shall be comprised of Legislators from both parties represented in the County Legislature.

The specific legislative actions required are to:

1. Create a special committee of the County Legislature with the following duties:
 - a. To examine and review the Monroe County Code of Ethics;
 - b. To provide recommendations for updates to the Monroe County Code of Ethics no later than December 31, 2021.
2. Pursuant to Section 545-21 of the Rules of the Legislature and Section C2-4 of the Monroe County Charter, the Committee shall be comprised of five (5) voting members, appointed by the President of the Legislature:
 - a. One (1) voting member shall be a Legislator of the party representing the Majority in the Monroe County Legislature; one (1) voting member shall be a Legislator of the party representing the Minority of the Monroe County Legislature; one (1) voting member shall be the Chairperson of the Monroe County Legislature's Agenda/Charter Committee; one (1) voting member shall be the Ranking Minority Member of the Monroe County Legislature's Agenda/Charter Committee; one (1) voting member shall be a County Legislator of any party recommended by the President of the Legislature.
3. Adopt the resolution as attached.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action" as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR 617.5(b), and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This referral will have no impact on the Monroe County budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Joe Carbone
Monroe County Legislature
President