



Monroe County Legislature

ERNEST FLAGLER-MITCHELL

Legislator – District 29

VINCENT R. FELDER

Minority Leader – District 22

CALVIN LEE, JR.

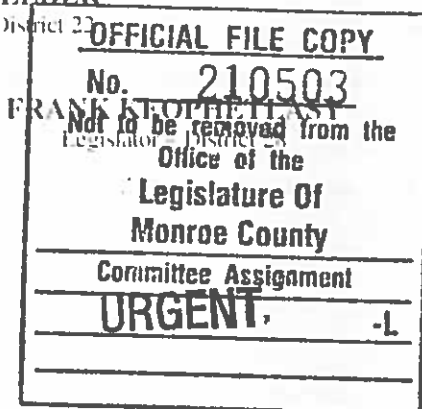
Acting Black & Asian Caucus Leader – District 25

SABRINA LAMAR

Assistant Black & Asian Caucus Leader – District 27

December 1, 2021

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



Subject: Commissioning the Creation of a Mural at the Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport

Honorable Legislators:

Two of the most significant contributors to African-American history were Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. We as Monroe County residents are proud to be able to call ourselves the home of Frederick Douglass, whose name now graces the county-owned airport in Rochester. On August 29, 1868, Douglass wrote the following powerful letter to Tubman:

Dear Harriet: I am glad to know that the story of your eventful life has been written by a kind lady, and that the same is soon to be published. You ask for what you do not need when you call upon me for a word of commendation. I need such words from you far more than you can need them from me, especially where your superior labors and devotion to the cause of the lately enslaved of our land are known as I know them.

The difference between us is very marked. Most that I have done and suffered in the service of our cause has been in public, and I have received much encouragement at every step of the way. You, on the other hand, have labored in a private way. I have wrought in the day – you in the night. I have had the applause of the crowd and the satisfaction that comes of being approved by the multitude, while the most that you have done has been witnessed by a few trembling, scarred, and foot-sore bondmen and women, whom you have led out of the house of bondage, and whose heartfelt, “God bless you,” has been your only reward.

The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism. Excepting John Brown – of sacred memory – I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have. Much that you have done would seem improbable to those who do not know you as I know you. It is to me a great pleasure and a great privilege to bear testimony for your character and your works, and to say to those to whom you may come, that I regard you in every way truthful and trustworthy.

*Your friend,
Frederick Douglass*

We ask that This Honorable Body approve funding for the Monroe County Airport Authority to design, create, and maintain a mural of this letter to be placed in a conspicuous public area in the airport for all who pass through to see. The location of the mural will be determined during the design process.

The specific legislative actions required are to:

- 1) Transfer \$20,000 from the Monroe County Legislature, Community Contingency Fund, general fund 9001, funds center 1001020000, Community Contingency Fund to Monroe County Airport Authority, general fund 9001, funds center 600000000 for the purpose of creating a mural of the August 29, 1868 letter from Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman in the Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport to be located in a conspicuous public area to be determined during the design process.
- 2) Direct the County Executive, or his designee, to take all necessary actions to design, create, and maintain the mural that is provided for by the funds transfer in Section 1.
- 3) If further funding is deemed to be necessary, the County Executive shall make a request for such funds from the County Legislature to ensure the completion of the project.

This is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(1) ("maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Funding for these agreements is included in the 2021 operating budget of the Monroe County Legislature, Community Contingency Fund, general fund 9001, funds center 1001020000, Community Contingency Fund.

We ask that it be deemed a Matter of Urgency so it may be considered at this month's meeting of the Monroe County Legislature.

Sincerely,



ERNEST FLAGLER-MITCHELL
Legislator – District 29



VINCENT R. FELDER
Minority Leader – District 22



CALVIN LEE, JR.
Acting Black & Asian Caucus Leader – District 25



SABRINA LAMAR
Assistant Black & Asian Caucus Leader – District 27



FRANK KEOPHETLAS
Legislator – District 28

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro No. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ OF 2021

COMMISSIONING THE CREATION OF A MURAL AT THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS GREATER ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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

Section 1: The 2021 operating budget is hereby amended to transfer \$20,000 from the Monroe County Legislature, Community Contingency Fund, general fund 9001, funds center 1001020000, Community Contingency Fund to Monroe County Airport Authority, general fund 9001, funds center 60000000 for the purpose of creating a mural of the August 29, 1868 letter from Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman in the Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport to be located in a conspicuous public area to be determined during the design process.

Section 2: Direct the County Executive, or his designee, to take all necessary actions to design, create, and maintain the mural that is provided for by the funds transfer in Section 1.

Section 3: If further funding is deemed to be necessary, the County Executive shall make a request for such funds from the County Legislature to ensure the completion of the project.

Section 4: This resolution shall take effect in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

File No. 21-0____

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION: _____