



Monroe County Legislature

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LEGISLATURE - DISTRICT 26

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Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Amend the 2021 Operating Budget to Transfer Appropriations from the
Legislature's Community Contingency Fund to the Department of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion to Fund a Language Access Position

Honorable Legislators:

In 2020, Monroe County dealt with the biggest public health crisis in over a century. The Covid-19 pandemic has proven to be a challenge to our community, but one that we have weathered with a sustained community-wide effort. The administration has provided strong leadership, guidance, and up-to-date information. However, rising COVID-19 cases in Monroe County recently led the Governor to designate parts of the region an "Orange Zone" in the midst of the holiday season. As community leaders, we have followed the guidelines about COVID-19 in Monroe County closely. Yet, throughout the pandemic we have seen the intensification of racial disparities in communities of color, especially those within the Limited English Proficient community.

Monroe County is home to over 30,000 residents in the Limited English Proficient (LEP) community and even more in the Deaf or Hard of Hearing community. This referral would increase the County's capacity to provide translation and interpretation services, including with respect to COVID-19, for the LEP and Deaf or Hard of Hearing communities in Monroe County to ensure they receive critical information in a format that they can understand. There is a crucial need for this kind of support in Monroe County, especially during the pandemic, where Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities have missed out on critical information because it was not provided in their native language and interpretation services have not been readily available at agencies providing services.

This is a challenging time for local governments. This referral would prevent further gaps in information and guidance regarding COVID-19 and county services to these communities. The burden of information sharing should not disproportionately fall on the shoulders of providers in the LEP, Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. This referral will further the goal of achieving greater equity for all.

This Honorable Body and the administration have a long history of collaboration. This proposal would utilize funds from the Legislature's Community Contingency Fund to fund salary and benefits for a position in the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion dedicated to providing language access services. The newly created position will be subject to classification by the Civil Service Commission. This employee would begin with a focus on communications related to COVID-19 and other emergency situations and then expand their focus to include other county services, ensuring a language access plan.

The specific legislative action required is:

Amend the 2021 operating budget to transfer \$90,000 from the Legislature, general fund 9001, funds center 1001020000, Community Contingency Fund to the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, general fund 9001, funds center 2201010000, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the purpose of funding one full time position, (FTE) including benefits, dedicated to language access services.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action," as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR § 617.2(b), and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

No additional net County support is required in the current Monroe County Budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Yversha M. Roman
Legislator – District 26



Linda Hasman
Legislator – District 23



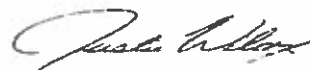
Joshua Bauroth
Assistant Minority Leader



Howard S. Maffucci
Legislator – District 10



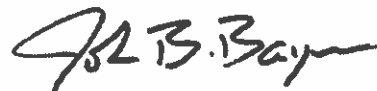
Michael Yudelson
Legislator – District 13



Justin Wilcox
Legislator – District 14



Joe Morelle, Jr.
Legislator – District 17



John B. Baynes
Legislator – District 18



Rachel Barnhart
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