30.

By Legislators Brew and Boyce

Intro. No. _____

RESOLUTION NO. ___ OF 2021

CALLING LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON DEFICIENCIES IN UTILIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF MONROE COUNTY FORENSIC INTERVENTION TEAM

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

Section 1. That there shall be a legislative hearing at 5:35 P.M. on the 23rd day of February, 2021, in the Legislative Chambers in the County Office Building, Rochester, New York 14614, on the deficiencies in utilization and deployment of Monroe County's Forensic Intervention Team, with remote participation permitted.

Section 2. The President of the Legislature is hereby authorized to solicit testimony and request the attendance of relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts for said legislative hearing.

Section 3. The Clerk of the Legislature is directed to give notice of the time and place of this legislative hearing to all Monroe County Legislators, invited participants, and news media within the County, and that said notice to be published once in an official newspaper of general circulation within the County at least five days before said hearing.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

File No. 21-0035
Matter of Urgency

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

Monroe County Legislature

Office of the Republican Majority

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. 210035
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
URGENT -L

February 5, 2021

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

Subject: **Calling a Legislative Hearing on the Deficiencies in the Utilization and Deployment of the Monroe County Forensic Intervention Team**

Honorable Legislators:

Last year, our community stood together in demanding needed and necessary changes to the way Monroe County handles mental health crisis following Mr. Daniel Prude's death. In response, elected officials across the local area pledged to re-evaluate our current processes, develop changes and solutions and ultimately ensure mental health crises were met with appropriate and trauma-saving resources. With a heavy heart, we have all witnessed another incident of possibly avoidable trauma during the events of January 29, 2021.

In response to the events of last year, Monroe County officials took several steps that, at the time, were said to be the answers to ensuring these happenings would be corrected and avoided. To bolster Monroe County's mental health responses, this Honorable Body allocated $100,000, the entirety of Monroe County's contingency fund, for the sole and express purpose of expanding Monroe County's Forensic Intervention Team. Soon after, County Executive Bello announced matching funding between the City of Rochester and Monroe County to further support the unified goal of a 24/7 Forensic Intervention Team. In County Executive Bello's subsequent press release, it stated, "the funding will allow this team to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." Furthermore, it stated the funding would create a "Mental Health and Substance Abuse Redesign Taskforce,' that would "identify short term and long term reforms that will impact how the county can better deliver of mental health, domestic violence, child protective and other social services with our 911 emergency system."

To date, the Monroe County Legislature cannot confirm that last year's funding allocation from the Legislature was ever utilized to expand FIT; nor can it confirm a 24/7 Forensic Intervention Team stands at the ready. Additionally, we did not see a single change or recommendation to our delivery of mental health, domestic violence, child protective, or other social services to improve delivery with our 911 emergency system. This Honorable Body accepted a grant for FIT earlier this year, but questions remain on how those resources will be spread across the County and what level of coverage will be achieved.

While planning and development is necessary, it cannot come at the expense of inaction. FIT offers a proven strategy to assist law enforcement with crisis response. We need to focus our attention on how best to build and strengthen FIT into a 24/7 operation that is accessible countywide. All involved stakeholders must come to the table to address the challenges, offer meaningful solutions and work together to establish a successful and efficient Forensic Intervention Team.

409 County Office Building · 39 West Main Street · Rochester, New York 14614
Phone: (585) 753-1922 · Fax: (585) 753-1960

The foremost duty of government is to protect its citizens; the last year's incidents would indicate Monroe County has not lived up to this mantra. Therefore, it is necessary to call a hearing on the deficiencies in utilization and deployment of Monroe County's Forensic Intervention Team for the residents of Monroe County. This hearing will call before the Legislature all involved stakeholders; mental health experts, law enforcement, and any other person who stands able to provide insight and information into the current status of Monroe County's Forensic Intervention Team, our mental health crisis responses, and/or offer pertinent insight into the issues plaguing our County as it relates to the subject matter. The information ascertained at this hearing will help inform the Legislature on the appropriate next steps.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Schedule a Legislative Hearing on the deficiencies in utilization and deployment of Monroe County's Forensic Intervention Team at 5:35 P.M. on the 23rd day of February 2021, in the Legislative Chambers in the County Office Building, Rochester, New York 14614, with remote participation permitted.

2. Authorize the President of the Legislature to solicit testimony and request the attendance of relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts for said Legislative Hearing.

3. Direct the Clerk of the Legislature to give notice of the time and place of this hearing to all Monroe County Legislators, invited participants, and new media within the County, and that said notice be published once in an official newspaper of general circulation within the County at least five days before said hearing.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Joe Carbone
Monroe County Legislature
President

Steve Brew
Monroe County Legislature
Majority Leader

Karla F. Boyce
Monroe County Legislator
District 5

R. Edwin Wilt
Monroe County Legislator
District 1

Jackie Smith
Monroe County Legislator
District 2

Tracy DiFlorio
Monroe County Legislator
District 3

Frank X. Allkofer
Monroe County Legislator
District 4

Fred Ancello
Monroe County Legislator
District 6

Brian E. Marianetti
Monroe County Legislator
District 7

Matthew Terp
Monroe County Legislator
District 8

Paul Dondorfer
Monroe County Legislator
District 9

Sean M. Delehanty
Monroe County Legislator
District 11

George J. Hebert
Monroe County Legislator
District 15

Kathleen A. Taylor
Monroe County Legislator
District 19

Robert Colby
Monroe County Legislator
District 20

By Legislators _____ and _____

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ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____