

*Monroe County
Clerk of the Legislature*

Nayeliz Santiago
Clerk



Isabela Mulcahy
Deputy Clerk

Hugh Smyth
1st Asst. Deputy Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media

FROM: Nayeliz Santiago, Clerk of the Legislature

DATE: July 13, 2026

RE: Matter of Urgency – File No. 26-0202

Matter of Urgency:

26-0202 **Expressing Regret of the Monroe County Legislature on the Recent Passing of Former Monroe County District Attorney and Superintendent of New York State Police, Donald O. Chesworth Jr.** – As a Matter of Urgency – President Yversha Román

Per President Yversha Román, the attached communication has been declared to be a Matter of Urgency pursuant to Section 545-24(A)(3) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature and will be considered at the July 14, 2026 regular meeting of the Monroe County Legislature.

Attachments.



Monroe County Legislature

YVERSHA M. ROMÁN
President

July 13, 2026

Nayeliz Santiago, Clerk
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No.	260202
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
URGENT	-L

RE: Declaring Matter of Urgency - Expressing Regret of the Monroe County Legislature on the Recent Passing of Former Monroe County District Attorney and Superintendent of New York State Police, Donald O. Chesworth Jr.

Dear Ms. Santiago:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President of the Monroe County Legislature by Section 545-24(A)(3) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature, I hereby declare the item entitled "Expressing Regret of the Monroe County Legislature on the Recent Passing of Former Monroe County District Attorney and Superintendent of New York State Police, Donald O. Chesworth Jr." as a Matter of Urgency.

It is important that we approve this item at the Full Legislature meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Sincerely,

Yversha Román
President of the Legislature

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2026
IN MEMORIAM

**EXPRESSING REGRET OF THE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE ON THE RECENT PASSING OF
FORMER MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND SUPERINTENDENT OF NEW YORK
STATE POLICE, DONALD O. CHESWORTH JR.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monroe County Legislature hereby expresses its deepest sympathy upon the recent passing of former Monroe County District Attorney and Superintendent of the New York State Police Donald O. Chesworth Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Donald O. Chesworth Jr. was born on September 15, 1941, in Independence, Missouri, and passed away peacefully on June 23, 2026, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, committed to the pursuit of justice throughout his life, Donald graduated magna cum laude from Graceland College before earning his Juris Doctor from Yale Law School in 1966, beginning a distinguished legal and public-service career that would span more than five decades; and

WHEREAS, following law school, Donald joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent, serving as a legal advisor, criminal investigator, and instructor to law enforcement agencies while directing federal organized-crime investigations in Monroe County, before joining the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, where he served as Second Assistant District Attorney, First Assistant District Attorney, and, in 1981, was appointed and subsequently elected Monroe County District Attorney; and

WHEREAS, Donald was appointed as the ninth Superintendent of the New York State Police in 1983 by Governor Mario Cuomo, where he modernized the agency by expanding the State Police force, initiating the "12 Most Wanted" Program, implementing sobriety road checks, establishing the Crime Analysis Unit, Forensic Sciences Unit, and HAZMAT Unit, and helping establish the New York State Trooper Foundation; and

WHEREAS, following his public service, Donald returned to private practice, co-founding Harris & Chesworth and later serving as Managing Partner of Tully Rinckey PLLC's Rochester office, while continuing to mentor attorneys and serve numerous civic, charitable, and professional organizations throughout Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, Donald is survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn Schantz-Chesworth; his children, Cynthia Grace (John) Thompson, Deborah Kathryn (Chris) Bardeen, and Donald O. Chesworth III (Brittney); his five cherished grandchildren, Haydon and Savannah Thompson, Grace Bardeen, Noemi and Jacob Chesworth; and many friends, colleagues, and members of the legal and law enforcement communities, while his extraordinary career, unwavering integrity, and lasting contributions to Monroe County and New York State will be remembered with deep gratitude by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the bereaved family.

This resolution was adopted unanimously with each legislator rising in his or her place for a moment of silence.