



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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Lee & Andrews: Brooks Grandstanding on Backs of Working Families

(Rochester, NY – August 14, 2009) –Monroe County Legislators Calvin Lee (D-Rochester) and Carrie Andrews (D-Rochester) today questioned the County Administration about their August 13 press conference denouncing the Governor’s program to provide working families with \$200 in back-to-school funding. In light of the millions wasted on the Administration’s failed Renaissance Square project and the ongoing ROBUTRAD corruption investigation, Andrews and Lee offered the following statement.

“Accusations of fraud must be taken seriously and investigated. If fraud is discovered in this program, it needs to be halted. As with the ROBUTRAD investigation, we look forward to seeing the results of a meaningful inquiry into the alleged fraud reported by an unknown number of retailers.

“However, we are astonished that this County’s Administration needs only two days to call for federal and state investigations into a program designed to help the working poor get back-to-school supplies for their children, but missed millions of dollars of criminal fraud by her ROBUTRAD cronies that has been going on, according to the FBI, for many years.

“The county executive never called for an investigation by the state or federal government to look at the theft of millions in county taxpayer funds by her political allies; instead she chose to privately ask a political partner. Why didn’t she have a press conference in June 2008 announcing that she referred the ROBUTRAD complaint to the Sheriff? The answer is simple; it wouldn’t politically benefit the Republicans.

“It is unfortunate that we have an administration that has no reservations about spending over \$20 million on a project that failed because they refused to work cooperatively, an administration that permitted a criminal fraud potentially costing taxpayers more than one million dollars, but yet they get a call from Wal-Mart and within days they bolt into action. Where are their priorities?”

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