

*Office of the President
Monroe County Legislature*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

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**STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF
LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT SABRINA LAMAR**

Re: Illegal Julie Cianca Appointment as Public Defender

Rochester, NY – Today is a sad day in the history of the Monroe County Legislature. Last evening, a group of rogue legislators held an illegal meeting for the purpose of appointing Julie Cianca as Public Defender. This was done after Ms. Cianca’s candidacy for the position was rejected by the Public Safety Committee on September 13th. Under the rules of the Legislature, the only way to reconsider Ms. Cianca’s candidacy would be for a member of the Public Safety Committee to motion to reconsider her candidacy and for the members of that committee to vote to do so.

This group of rogue legislators asked for a special meeting. The Legislature President and the Parliamentarian informed them that they denied the meeting request because the actions the meeting proposed to take violated the County Charter, the Rules of the Legislature and Robert’s Rules of Order.

The County Attorney, John Bringewatt, knows this, yet advised this group of rogue legislators that the action they were taking was, in fact, legal. At a minimum, he should be removed as County Attorney, because he is unwilling to give honest answers to legal questions by legislators when the County Executive directs him to lie. He cannot be trusted to advise the Legislature.

That the County Executive and County Clerk would attempt to circumvent the Legislature President and Legislature Clerk and recognize this sham process shows how little integrity they possess, and their willingness to ignore the separation of powers as outlined in the County Charter. As much as the Democrats try to tie Republicans to Donald Trump, it is the County Executive who acts like a spoiled child who always must get his way.

The County Executive is attempting to thwart the will of Rochester’s Black community, which shows how little regard he has for Black voices.

The fact that Ms. Cianca, as an attorney, would consent to be appointed by this illegal process, proves that she is unfit for the position of Public Defender.

President LaMar has consulted with legal counsel and is evaluating her next steps. We will comment further once she has determined the best course of action. This illegal act cannot be allowed to stand.

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