

NEWS Rensselaer County Legislature

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Minority Calls for Formation of Bipartisan Search Committee for DSS Commissioner

TROY— Minority Leader Ginny O'Brien has sent a memorandum to County Executive Kathy Jimino requesting the formation of a bipartisan committee to undertake the search for a qualified candidate to replace John Beaudoin, Commissioner of Social Services, who will retire in July. Mr. Beaudoin has held the position of commissioner for forty years.

The Department of Social Services provides a wide range of services and is the safety net for many Rensselaer County residents in times of need. The Department's budget is a significant portion of the County's \$280 million plus budget—over \$84 million in the 2008 budget.

"The recent news about the impending retirement of John Beaudoin from the position of Commissioner of Social Services leads us all to consider the issue of who will succeed him," commented O'Brien. "Commissioner Beaudoin has provided the County with years of leadership, experience and expertise. Continuing these services will be crucial and vital to the operations of county government."

O'Brien has suggested that, because of the significance of this position and the importance of a smooth, timely transition, it would be in the best interests of the County that a bipartisan selection committee be formed to interview qualified individuals for the position. Her proposal to the County Executive is to form a search committee with Commissioner Beaudoin, members of the Social Services committee, representatives of Van Rensselaer Manor and other Department of Social Services programs whose different perspectives, insights and experience would be invaluable resources to ensure the position is filled by the most qualified candidate.