

NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Office of the Minority

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Democratic Legislators Oppose Appointment of Michael “Pickles” Picarillo to County Legislature

Troy—Democratic Minority legislators are voting against the appointment of Michael A. Picarillo to fill the seat in the County Legislature that has been vacant since the demise of former Legislator Nancy McHugh. They question Mr. Picarillo’s ability to provide an effective, independent voice for the Troy residents he would represent due to his close association with Majority Leader Robert Mirch, who, in addition to playing a vocal role in the Rensselaer County Legislature, is Deputy Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Troy and “Pickles” Picarillo’s boss.

“I think it was an unfortunate choice to select someone for this seat in the Legislature who will have to abstain from voting on resolutions that will directly affect his constituents in the City of Troy, specifically those people he is supposed to represent,” remarked Minority Leader Ginny O’Brien (D-East Greenbush, North Greenbush, Poestenkill). “The County’s Code of Ethics stipulates that legislators cannot vote on matters that would have an impact on their employer—in Mr. Picarillo’s case that would be the City of Troy.”

“It’s important for residents of Troy to have an independent voice advocating for their issues. I am concerned that it will be difficult for Mr. Picarillo to offer that voice given his position as an employee of the city working under Majority Leader Bob Mirch,” added Legislator Peter Grimm who represents the City of Troy.