



NIAGARA COUNTY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CHRISTIAN W. PECK
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
TEL: (716) 439-7241
FAX: (716) 439-7058

March 8, 2010

MAJORITY LAWMAKERS TURN TO CHAMBER IN COUNTY MANAGER SEARCH
ROSS TAPS BRENNEN FOR HIRING COMMITTEE

LOCKPORT—The Niagara County Legislature's Majority Caucus will name Niagara USA Chamber President Deanna Alterio Brennen as an advisory member of the committee searching for a new county manager, Legislature Chairman William L. Ross, C-Wheatfield, announced Monday.

Brennen, who heads up the chamber of commerce, will be one of two members of the general public appointed sit in a non-voting advisory role on the county manager search committee. Under county law, the Majority and Minority caucuses of the Legislature each nominate three legislators and one non-voting citizen to the committee. Minority Democrats named Niagara University Professor David Reilly last week.

"To the Majority Caucus, Deanna Brennen was a natural choice," Ross said. "We've consistently believed that economic development is an absolute priority for Niagara County, and the opportunity to look to the business community—or, in this case, their advocate and agent at the Niagara USA Chamber—for some insights into effective management and leadership was the right call."

Ross said the Majority had considered several candidates, all of whom he termed "excellent individuals who would have brought a lot to the table. But, as you know, we can only name one, and in the end, we believe that our county's best hope for continued prosperity lies in the creation of jobs by the private sector, and we want to make sure we find a new county manager who shares that belief."

Ross praised Brennen for her commitment to helping the business community address their concerns to local and state officials, and said he felt she'd be a good fit for the search committee.

"In Deanna Brennen, we have an individual who has worked with local governments, local leaders, and certainly our state officials, and done a commendable job as an advocate for local business," Ross said. "In this, we're sort of asking her to reverse that role, and help the government by bringing us insights from the business world."

Ross said he plans to place both Brennen's and Reilly's names on the lawmaking body's March 16 agenda for confirmation by the Legislature, and that the process to hire a new county manager would then begin in earnest. Pending confirmation, Brennen and Reilly will join the committee's six legislators: Vice Chairman Clyde L. Burmaster, R-Ransomville, Administration Committee Chairman Wm. Keith McNall, R-Lockport, Legislator Gerald K. Farnham, R-Pendleton, Minority Leader Dennis F. Virtuoso, D-Niagara Falls, Deputy Minority Leader Renae Kimble, D-Niagara Falls, and Legislator Jason J. Cafarella, D-Niagara Falls.

"Our taxpayers want an effective, lean government, and that's what we're looking for in a county manager," Ross said. "This committee has some experienced, quality leaders who understand that."

###