



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 10, 2010

**LEGISLATURE TO BOOST SCRUTINY OF PERSONNEL MOVES
McNALL FREEZING MOST NON-MANDATED HIRING**

LOCKPORT—The chairman of the Niagara County Legislature's Administration Committee announced Tuesday that county lawmakers will freeze many proposed personnel moves and new hires over the next several months in response to the ongoing national and state economic crises and out of deference to the next county manager.

Legislator Wm. Keith McNall, R-Lockport, who chairs the Administration Committee, the body with oversight of all matters with a financial impact on the county, said that concerns about the long-term impact of changes in state and federal funding and anticipated increases in pension costs and other unfunded state mandates being passed on by New York state's dysfunctional Legislature drove the decision—as did a desire to see the next county manager, who will be hired later this year, not tied down by decisions made by his outgoing predecessor.

McNall issued the following statement announcing the decision:

As Chairman of the Administration Committee, I am disclosing to all department heads that I will review and scrutinize to remove any requests for current job vacancies to be filled, new positions to be created, current job position upgrades, or position reclassifications from future Administration Committee agendas due to, first, the challenging financial and frustrating economic conditions that face state and local governments today and which will undoubtedly impact our county budget next year; and second, the fact that we are underway in the selection process to hire a new county manager. I firmly believe the new county manager should play an important role in future job position assignments relative to department and county needs and should be a part of that decision-making process.

Position changes or upgrades that are mandated by law will, of course, be looked at for consideration and approval when submitted for Administration Committee agenda action.

Thank you.

###