



Monroe County Legislature

RACHEL BARNHART
LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 21

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August 9, 2023

Hon. Adam Bello
Monroe County Executive
39 W. Main St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14614

Dear County Executive Bello,

I am writing to ask questions and express concern about your proposal to transfer money budgeted to assist people experiencing financial hardship to fund other county expenses.

Referral #230269 recommends transferring \$1,858,626 from the Human Services' Safety Net Assistance fund to various items including the administration of golf courses, the zoo and parks.

According to the adopted 2023 Monroe County Budget, the county allocated \$38,454,033 to Safety Net Assistance, with county dollars making up 59% of the budget for the program. The program serves an estimated monthly caseload of 4,445. The Safety Net Assistance program provides cash and non-cash support primarily to single individuals and to some families.

I would like an answer to the following questions as soon as possible:

1. How much money is anticipated to be unspent from the Safety Net Assistance fund (Fund Center 5110010000) in 2023?
 1. What is the reason funds remain unspent?
 2. Can the funds be used for another human services purpose, such as emergency housing or rental subsidies?
2. Are funds in the Safety Net Assistance fund unrestricted, such that they can be transferred to the Parks Department?
 1. What portion of the anticipated unspent funds are unrestricted?
3. Can you make an alternative recommendation for how these identified needs can be funded that does not require taking money from Human Services?
4. How do the recommended transfers impact Monroe County's available fund balance?

A budget is a statement of priorities. While I believe investments in parks and recreation are important, many of our neighbors have urgent, unmet needs that could be alleviated with the direct assistance that these funds could provide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Barnhart".

Rachel Barnhart – Legislator District 21