



Monroe County Legislature

ERNEST FLAGLER-MITCHELL

Black and Asian Democratic Caucus Leader – District 29

VINCENT R. FELDER

Minority Leader – District 22

CALVIN LEE, JR.

Legislator – District 25

SABRINA LAMAR

Assistant Black and Asian Democratic Caucus Leader – District 27

FRANK KEOPHETLASY

Legislator – District 28

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Black and Asian Democratic Caucus and Minority Leader Vincent R. Felder Support County Executive’s Announcement of Raising Minimum Wage of County Employees to \$15 Per Hour

ROCHESTER, NY – The Black and Asian Democratic Caucus and Minority Leader Vincent R. Felder of the Monroe County Legislature supports County Executive Adam Bello’s announcement today that all employees and contractors of Monroe County will make a minimum wage of \$15 per hour. *“We have long held that everybody should be able to make a living wage,”* said Black and Asian Democratic Caucus Leader **Ernest Flagler-Mitchell**. *“The County Executive’s plan to provide \$15 per hour to Monroe County employees is a great first step to getting every resident of Monroe County to a level of compensation that allows them to provide for their families, but there is still more room to grow.”*

The current climate of fighting for higher wages is an encouraging one for workers’ rights in the country, and the Black and Asian Democratic Caucus is pleased that Monroe County is leading the way and setting an example. *“It was and honor to serve on the RASE Commission,”* said Legislator **Frank Keophetlasy**. *“As Chair for job creation, the main focus was on living wages stemming centuries of systemic racism that led to extremely poor racial wage gaps in Monroe County. I am excited to see the County Executive begin to act on recommendations made by the Commission.”* The report issued by the RASE Commission includes sections advocating for increased wages for people of color as well as universal basic income and expansion of programs such as SNAP.

“This is only the beginning,” said Assistant Black and Asian Democratic Caucus Leader **Sabrina LaMar**. *“We have to continue to work towards equitable pay for all.”*

The Caucus along with Leader Felder hope that more municipalities and states follow this lead and raise their minimum wages to at least \$15 per hour, as many have begun the process of doing. From there, we will be one step closer to everyone being able to make a living wage.

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