

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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NEWS RELEASE

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Comptroller Antonacci Reacts to Recent Votes on Elected Officials' Pay

Onondaga County Comptroller Robert Antonacci was surprised by today's vote to raise the pay of the Onondaga County Executive and Legislators.

"I had reservations about this issue from the start," said Antonacci. "We just had an election where the voters could have weighed in on this. We just had budget hearings where the public could comment on this. Instead, to put this in at the last possible minute is just ill-advised," said Antonacci.

Legislators were given the proposed resolution moments prior to last Thursday's Ways and Means Committee meeting and again were given a revised resolution just moments before today's session.

During the debate, it was stated Onondaga County needs to make the Executive's pay competitive in order to attract quality people. The Erie County Executive is paid \$103,428 and the Monroe County Executive is paid \$120,000. "I don't know how you can say Onondaga County was not paying a competitive salary," said Antonacci. "The position was already paid more than two larger upstate counties."

"A few years ago, the County Executive vetoed raises because she said elected officials' pay should be determined during the budget. I would like to know what changed?" asked Antonacci.

"If County Executive Mahoney had the courage of her convictions, she would forgo the pay raise," concluded Antonacci.