

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oliphant recognizes successful programs, has experience and knowledge to develop new programs

Erika Oliphant, Democratic candidate for Monroe County Prosecutor, announced her leadership approach to the office if elected this November. Oliphant will work to optimize the use of successful programs currently in place, as well as to increase opportunities for diversion programs.

“Patrick Moynihan once said, ‘Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts.’ In a recent press release, Margie Rice attributed jail overcrowding to ‘discriminatory bail practices, incarcerating for technical probation violations and treating addiction as a crime rather than a disease.’ I would challenge her to provide evidence of this claim. When she expresses these critical opinions regarding current programs, she seems to be unaware that our local justice system is the envy of the State,” said Oliphant.

Monroe County has four problem solving courts, all dealing with substance use disorder/addiction. Oliphant has served as the prosecutor representative on three of those courts. The Drug Treatment Court has been decreasing recidivism among participants with substance use disorder since 1999, providing treatment services instead of incarceration. In 2016, Monroe County began to accept participants into its Veterans Treatment Court and Re-Entry Court programs to continue to address substance use disorder outside of jail or prison.

Additionally, there is a pilot program called the pre-trial release project in Monroe County that focuses on a person’s risk factors to the community instead of their ability to pay. The pre-trial release project began in September 2016. This project has helped to address jail overcrowding by allowing earlier release from jail for most people.

“No one has proposed a new jail, so why does my opponent mention it?” Oliphant asks. Monroe County has historically focused on reform, treatment, prevention and alternative sentencing. Our current leaders should be recognized for their contributions to our community, not criticized as discriminatory.

A responsible leader needs to recognize the successful programs already in place when she enters office and build upon that success. At the same time, she must have the experience and knowledge to develop new innovative programs that will continue to prove Monroe County a leader in recovery-based justice. “I am committed to being that kind of Prosecutor, if elected,” said Oliphant.