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New York Water Environment Association Honors Monroe County Executive Adam Bello with the Frank E. Van Lare Award

Syracuse, NY – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) honored Monroe County Executive Adam Bello with the 2022 Frank E. Van Lare Award today at the awards ceremony during the association’s 95th Annual Meeting. The award is given annually to recognize the outstanding contributions and commitment of an elected official for exceptional support of environmental projects, programs and initiatives, with the major focus on water resources, wastewater facilities and water quality preservation development. The award was named for Frank E. Van Lare, former Rochester City Councilman and New York State Senator, in honor of his contribution to the development of the State Pure Waters Program.

County Executive Bello previously served as the Irondequoit Town Supervisor and Monroe County Clerk before taking office as county executive in 2020. He and his new administration immediately faced the COVID pandemic and its many challenges that are still being dealt with today. Bello oversaw the distribution of millions of COVID tests and pieces of personal protective equipment to contain the virus, while deploying mass vaccination sites for hundreds of thousands of residents. Now, he is leading Monroe County past the pandemic and positioning the County and its neighbors for future success – focusing on public safety, public health, economic development, and infrastructure.

 Shortly after taking office in 2020, Bello led the County and its Legislature to create the County’s first-ever Climate Action Plan (CAP) and a bipartisan CAP Advisory Committee. While the County has been recognized as a leader of environmental stewardship and innovation for decades, it did not have a comprehensive plan to combat climate change. The CAP Phase I relates to operations of the County government that set a goal of reducing government operation greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 from the established 2019 baseline. The CAP Phase I will allow Monroe County to demonstrate leadership in climate action by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions within its control.

To further the County’s commitment to fight climate change, Bello supported the County becoming a Climate Smart Community as well as a Clean Energy Community as recognized by New York State.

Under Bello’s leadership, three major construction projects at Monroe County’s Frank E. Van Lare Water Resource Recovery Facility totaling $58 million are progressing on schedule and under budget. These projects include aeration, clarifier, and electrical improvements, each covered under one project labor agreement and delivered as three separate, single-prime construction contracts.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, water resource recovery operators, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program,
publishes *Clear Waters* – a quarterly educational magazine, administers wastewater operator training and certification, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 15 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, please visit [www.nywea.org](http://www.nywea.org).