



Onondaga County Legislature

ELAINE DENTON

County Legislator – 10th District
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PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Livestream Available: [Onondaga County Legislature on YouTube](#)

10:45 a.m.
September 24, 2026

401 Montgomery St., Courthouse Room 407
Syracuse, New York 13202

- A. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- B. Presentation of Resolutions and Local Laws:
 - 1. **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING:** Troy W. Waffner, Director; Ellison McMahon, Planner I
 - a. INFORMATIONAL: Update on Greenways and Blueways
 - 2. **VISIT SYRACUSE:**
 - a. Designating Visit Syracuse as the Agency Authorized to Make Application to the New York State Department of Economic Development and to Receive Matching Funds Therefrom Under the New York State Tourist Promotion Act for January 1, 2027 Through December 31, 2027
 - 3. **COUNTY LEGISLATURE:**
 - a. DISCUSSION: Confirming the Appointment of Dr. Jaynelle Nixon to the Board of Directors of the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation
 - b. DISCUSSION: Budget Discussion & Follow-Up Items
- C. Adjournment

October 6, 2026

Motion Made By Ms. Denton

RESOLUTION NO. _____

DESIGNATING VISIT SYRACUSE AS THE AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION
TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TO
RECEIVE MATCHING FUNDS THEREFROM UNDER THE NEW YORK STATE TOURIST
PROMOTION ACT FOR JANUARY 1, 2027 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 5-A of the Economic Development Law, the New York State Legislature has authorized the New York State Department of Economic Development to match funds expended by authorized tourist promotion agencies; and

WHEREAS, Visit Syracuse has requested designation as the agency to promote tourism in Onondaga County; and

WHEREAS, said organization is prepared to match the State funds available under the New York State Tourist Promotion Act; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Visit Syracuse is herein designated and authorized to make application to and receive matching State funds under the New York State Tourist Promotion Act as the agency designated to promote tourism in the County of Onondaga.

Jaynelle D. Nixon
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EDUCATION:

- PhD Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
Dissertation: "Watching Monsters: The Horror of Racialized Monsters, Disabled Monsters, and Gender Nonconforming Monsters in Embodied Gothic Horror Films" (Director: Christine Varnado)
- MA European Studies, KU Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), Leuven, Belgium
Thesis: "Feminists in Transition: Class, Gender, and Ethnicity at the Beginning of the Second Wave of Feminism" (Director: Leen Van Molle)
- MLA Literature, Baker University, Overland Park, KS
- BA English, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO

AWARDS:

Excellence in Teaching: Herzing University, 2024
Excellence in Teaching Online: Herzing University, 2024
TA Scholarship at University at Buffalo, 9/16-6/21

RECENT EXPERIENCE:

Herzing University Online

2009-Present: English Faculty & Course Author

Syracuse University

2023-2025: Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Women's & Gender Studies

SUNY Cortland

2022-2023: Adjunct Communication and Media Studies Faculty

Le Moyne College

2021-2023: Adjunct English Faculty

SUNY OCC

2021-2022: Adjunct English Faculty (Substitute for Absent Instructor)

University at Buffalo

2016-2021: Teaching Assistant for Global Gender and Sexuality Studies
Adjunct Instructor for Master of Social Work (gender studies classes)

PUBLICATIONS:

"Black Queer Feminist Placemaking." Nixon, Jaynelle D. (2024) "Black Queer Feminist Placemaking and the Normalization of Difference," *Gatherings*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 7. Available at: <https://fisherpub.sjf.edu/gatherings/vol1/iss1/7>

Editor of special issue on academic gatekeeping for *Gatherings: An interdisciplinary, intersectional feminist journal*. Special issue to be published in 2027.

GUEST LECTURE:

2023 University at Buffalo PLASMA (Performance, Lectures, and Screenings in Media Art) Series:
"Watching Monsters: The Horror of Racialized Monsters, Disabled Monsters, and Gender Nonconforming Monsters in Embodied Gothic Horror Films"

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RECENT PRESENTATIONS/PANELS:

- 2026 Moderator for political candidate Q & A for New York State assembly candidates and Onondaga County legislators.
- 2025 Public talk and presentation of Kwanzaa principles at [Café Sankofa](#).
- 2025 Panelist at Geek/ArtCONfluence, "[A Perfect Night for Mystery and Horror: Queer Creatures, Feminist Sleuths, and Monster Model-Kits](#)"
- 2025 Online version of "Close Reading and the Oppositional Gaze: Teaching to Empower and Engage" as online professional development workshop for the New York State English Council
- 2025 Public Screening and Discussion of *28 Days Later* (2002) for the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University
- 2024 Women in Horror: Panelist at Le Moyne College
- 2024 Public Screening and Discussion of *Bones and All* (2022) for the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University
- 2024 CNY Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Community Collective: Panelist for first issue of *Gatherings: Studies in Gender and Sexuality*
- 2024 New York State English Council Conference Workshop: "Close Reading and the Oppositional Gaze: Teaching to Empower and Engage"
- 2024 *60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Commemoration*: Panel Speaker at Syracuse University. Recording found here: [60th Anniversary of the 1064 Civil Rights Act - Syracuse University Videos](#)

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association (MLA)
National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
Cultural Studies Association (CSA)
New York State English Council (NYSEC)

Additional Service to College or University

Manresa Mentor, Le Moyne College
TA Mentor, Syracuse University

Peer Reviewer

African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Vice President: [Café Sankofa](#)

Creator: 1st annual SWAG Bike Fest (Syracuse Women's & Gender Nonconforming People's Bike Fest). You can read about my creation of this community based conference here: "[Syracuse's New Bike Festival Centers Women and Gender Nonconforming People](#)"