



Brian U. Stratton
Mayor

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Stratton Decides Against Run for Congress

Mayor Says He Will Not Enter Race for 21st Congressional District Seat;

*Looks forward to Continuing Schenectady's Progress, Economic
Resurgence as City's Chief Executive*

SCHENECTADY -- Mayor Brian U. Stratton today said he will not be a candidate in the race for the 21st Congressional District seat being vacated at the end of this year by Rep. Michael R. McNulty (D-Green Island). Instead, Stratton says he will continue to devote his energies full time to meeting the many challenges and opportunities ahead in the job he enjoys as Schenectady's elected chief executive.

"After a thorough consideration and careful examination of what to me was a unique opportunity to run for Congress, and potentially serve in the seat once held by my late father, I have decided that I can best serve the needs and citizens of the City of Schenectady by continuing the job I enjoy as Mayor," Stratton said.

"Being Mayor of Schenectady, the city of my birth, is not only an honor, but a job that I truly enjoy. I am extremely proud of all my administration has accomplished in four years to restore Schenectady's financial integrity, rebuild its economy, and to give our citizens a genuine sense of pride in their community. I look forward to continuing that progress and working to meet the many challenges still before us."

Stratton said the dynamic renaissance and economic expansion of Schenectady's downtown, the need to aggressively secure federal and state dollars to reinvest and rebuild the city's neighborhoods, and the ongoing need to rebuild the leadership and management of the Police Department are foremost among the challenges ahead. "We have already begun important work on many of these initiatives, and I want to be a part of moving them forward to completion," the Mayor said.

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“I want to thank my colleagues, friends, supporters and the many individuals from Schenectady and from the communities of the 21st Congressional District who for the past several weeks have offered their encouragement strong endorsement to me to enter the race. I look forward to continuing to work with them as we make Schenectady a great, more vibrant and livable city.”

Among the projects Mayor Stratton said he is looking forward to continuing in the year ahead are filling the position of Chief of Police with the most experienced, qualified manager possible; continuing to work with Public Safety Commissioner Wayne Bennett to bring greater discipline and management reforms to the department; implementation of the city’s first Comprehensive Plan in 37 years, including the adoption of 9 individual neighborhood plans; competing for federal funding to support blight removal and remediation initiatives throughout the city; continued expansion of city’s code enforcement efforts with prosecution of worst offenders; finalize design to prepare for construction of \$14 million Erie Boulevard restoration project, continuing efforts to secure funding for key economic development projects, including YMCA, Schenectady Science Museum Project; continuing to bring more state aid to Schenectady; continuing to make Schenectady a more “green” and environmentally friendly community; and continuing to elevate Schenectady’s municipal credit rating further into the investment-grade range.