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Mayor

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For Immediate Release
Thursday, December 4, 2008

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Schenectady Residents to Receive Emergency
Preparedness Handbook in Mail

Residents to Receive Pamphlet in December

SCHENECTADY – To assist residents in planning for emergencies, the City of Schenectady has produced an emergency preparedness handbook that will be distributed to every residential address in the city.

The publication, supported by a grant administered by the New York State Office of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was developed to help guide residents to plan and take necessary steps to ensure personal safety if an emergency occurs.

“Although it is everyone’s hope that a disaster or other emergency will never strike our homes or disrupt our lives, there can be no substitute for proper planning and preparation for the unexpected,” Mayor Stratton said. “With the help of funding and information from our federal and state security agencies, we are pleased to provide this important Emergency Planning Brochure to Schenectady residents to read, to learn, to become aware, and to properly prepare in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency,” the Mayor added.

Public Safety Commissioner Wayne Bennett said, “While public emergencies or disasters are thankfully not something we experience on a regular basis, they do occur. Prior knowledge of how to deal with them is far more reassuring than trying to cope with them spontaneously. Our hope is that you never have to utilize the information in this handbook however, we encourage you and other household members to familiarize yourselves with it and keep it in a readily available location. Rest assured that the city is properly staffed to assist you beyond these first step basic instructions. Together, we will be able to meet these challenges and we thank you for taking time to review this handbook.”

The guide emphasizes the importance of developing an emergency plan before an emergency strikes. It identifies items to be included in an emergency supply kit, and identifies considerations when creating an evacuation plan. It also identifies specific steps to be taken in the following emergencies:

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- Chemical spills
- Earthquakes
- Fires
- Floods
- Heat waves
- Influenza pandemic
- Power outages
- Terrorist attacks
- Thunderstorms and lightening
- Tornadoes
- Winter storms

Mailing of the handbook was scheduled for completion by the end of November 2008, with pamphlets beginning to arrive at city residences by the first week of December. If a city household does not receive one, copies will be available after December 1, 2008 at the following locations:

- All city fire stations
- Police Department - 531 Liberty Street
- Police Department Traffic Division – 837 Albany Street
- Mayor’s Office – City Hall, 105 Jay Street

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