



**Brian U. Stratton**  
Mayor

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

**382-5000**

**Schenectady Police Chief to Accept Federal Post in**  
**Washington, D.C.**

*Michael N. Geraci to Join Federal Transportation Agency in Washington in November as Director, Traffic Safety Programs, Research and Program Development in Traffic Injury Control*

**SCHENECTADY** -- Mayor Brian U. Stratton today announced that Police Chief Michael N. Geraci will resign from his position with the Schenectady Police Department at the end of this month to accept a high-level federal appointment with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in Washington, D.C..

Geraci, who has served as Chief of the Police Department since 2002, has accepted the position of Director, Office of Traffic Safety Programs, Research and Program Development, in Traffic Injury Control, a component of the NHTSA. He will be responsible for national leadership for the motorcycle, pedestrian, bicycle safety, pupil transportation and older driver programs as well as criminal justice and licensing. He will provide direct support to the Impaired Driving and Occupant Restraint programs and technical assistance to law enforcement, judges and prosecutors throughout the nation.

“It is with considerable regret that I announce Chief Geraci’s departure from the Schenectady Police Department today,” Mayor Stratton said. “But it is also an announcement I make with considerable pride, respect and admiration for the outstanding job Mike Geraci has done in leading this department during a very critical time.”

“While I encouraged Chief Geraci to continue in his capacity as Chief of Police, I also understand that this represents a unique and prestigious opportunity for Mike Geraci to fulfill a professional goal that he has entertained for a number of years. He is a true professional, and he is a man of outstanding personal character. I congratulate Mike, his wife Mary, and their family today on this achievement,” Mayor Stratton said.

Mayor Stratton said Chief Geraci has accomplished a great deal for the people of the City of Schenectady, and he should be commended for his energy, dedication and professionalism in restoring integrity to the position of Police Chief.

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“Under Chief Geraci, Schenectady moved progressively forward over the past five years in instituting a number of professional reforms, achieving federal designation as a Weed and Seed Community, bringing the Zone Five Police Academy to Schenectady and in securing nearly \$2 million since 2004 from New York States Operation IMPACT program.

“Throughout the Capital Region, throughout New York State, and across the country, the professional law enforcement community holds a great deal of respect for the work and accomplishments of Mike Geraci. That fact has been obvious to me during my four years as Mayor, and now that record of professionalism has been recognized by Washington. As Mayor and as a citizen of this city, I am proud that a Schenectady Chief of Police has been selected to serve our country in this important capacity,” Mayor Stratton said.

### **Newest Crime Statistics for Schenectady Show Largest Drop in New York State**

This announcement of the Chief’s departure this week comes at the same time the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has confirmed that the City of Schenectady has experienced an overall reduction of 16.4 % in violent crimes and 16.2% in property crimes in the city for the first seven months of 2007 as compared to the same time period in 2006.

According to DCJS statistics provided to IMPACT cities this week, Schenectady led New York State’s 17 IMPACT city jurisdictions in the state for overall crime reduction in violent crimes and in crimes on property through August 2007.

“Certainly, the latest DCJS statistics show that the work we have done over the last four years, to bring nearly \$2 million in law enforcement grants and support, to bring the resources of uniformed State Troopers and other law enforcement officers to our streets each week, to combine the resources of state, federal and county law enforcement officials in a coordinated, comprehensive approach, to fund an anti-crime camera surveillance program that is proving to be a model for New York and the nation, all of these achievements are showing positive results as Schenectady has shown the single largest drop in violent crime and property crimes this year,” Mayor Stratton said.

Mayor Stratton said he wishes Chief Geraci the very best of success in his new endeavor and thanks him for his five years of outstanding dedication to the City of Schenectady and its residents. Mayor Stratton has directed Public Safety Commissioner Wayne Bennett to prepare for his review a recommended selection process for filling the Chief position as soon as possible. The Mayor has emphasized that city needs an experienced and dedicated professional who will have the qualifications to continue to aggressively address and continue crime reduction in the city and provide disciplined leadership to enhance citizen satisfaction and public confidence in the department.