



Brian U. Stratton
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK

www.CityofSchenectady.com

City Hall, 105 Jay Street
Schenectady, New York 12305-1938
(518) 382-5000
Fax: (518) 382-5272
mayor@nycap.rr.com

FOR RELEASE: Immediate
Wednesday, March 25, 2009

CONTACT: Mayor's Office
382-5000

STRATTON ASKS CUOMO FOR HELP IN POLICE DISSOLUTION

Mayor, Attorney General Meet to Discuss Options and Path to Dissolving the Schenectady Police Department

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Brian U. Stratton has asked New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo for his assistance in exploring all options for dissolving the Schenectady Police Department and determining viable alternatives to providing policing and public safety services for the city's 62,000 residents, should the city decide to move in that direction.

Stratton and Cuomo met privately for nearly an hour Tuesday evening in Schenectady to discuss ongoing problems in the Schenectady Police Department and what options and state incentives may be available to dissolve the city's police department and provide policing services through another means.

"The Attorney General is well aware of the administrative and disciplinary challenges our city has faced for many years within the Police Department. The Office of the Attorney General provides legal opinions to local governments throughout the state, and I am grateful for his assistance as we seek viable solutions and alternatives on this critical issue," Mayor Stratton said.

"The Attorney General has given me his personal commitment to help us explore every available option and incentive that may be available as we consider the option of dissolving the Schenectady Police Department," Stratton said.

The Attorney General has been at the forefront of advocating the consolidation of local government services in New York State as a means to cut government waste, to reduce the cost. Cuomo says New York State is home to more than 10,500 governments that saddle residents with the nation's highest taxes and leave the State with layers of antiquated government entities and special districts.

Attorney General Cuomo has advanced a comprehensive legislative plan designed to streamline the often Byzantine and cumbersome process of consolidating local government entities, including the myriad of special districts across the state. His proposal does not mandate consolidation; rather it restructures the law to empower citizens and local governments to make the decisions themselves.

