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Mayor

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate
Tuesday, January 30, 2007

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STRATTON ENDORSES HILLARY CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT

Mayor Says Sen. Clinton Understands the Special Needs of Cities, Urban Communities, and their Importance to the National Economy

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Brian U. Stratton today endorsed the candidacy of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for President of the United States, citing her strong record of support for the City of Schenectady, for New York State, and for urban issues nationally.

“Today, I am proud to place my full support behind Senator Clinton in her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States,” Mayor Stratton said.

“Senator Clinton’s record of leadership on national issues, her strong support for Schenectady and urban communities throughout upstate New York, and her keen understanding of the importance and the needs of cities and urban communities across our nation make her the right choice for President in 2008. I look forward to doing whatever I can in the months ahead to help Senator Clinton secure the Democratic nomination, and to become our nation’s 44th President.”

Mayor Stratton credited Senator Clinton’s economic development efforts on behalf of Schenectady. Her legislation to expand the federal Renewal Community (RC) Program to include all of downtown Schenectady allows the city to utilize \$12 million in tax deductions to leverage new jobs and new development. The RC Program, begun under President Bill Clinton, provides federal tax credits and other incentives to employers to locate in the designated RC area and hire workers who live and work in the RC.

The Schenectady RC program, coupled with Senator Clinton’s securing federal historic tax credits for the \$30 million expansion at Proctors Theater, which has been a catalyst for more than \$150 million in new development projects in downtown Schenectady since 2004. The Senator has also worked to bring an additional \$2 million for the planned Erie Boulevard reconstruction project, helped to secure \$700,000 in federal HUD funding for Schenectady’s Vale Village housing rehabilitation project, and has pledged \$200,000 toward the construction of Schenectady’s new YMCA.

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“Since she was first elected to the United States Senate in 2000, and in three years I have had the opportunity to work with her as Mayor, Senator Clinton has shown us time and again that she truly cares about making New York stronger.”

“She knows that a comprehensive national urban agenda can leverage the true economic potential of our cities; an agenda that prioritizes the level of federal investment that can make cities and urban communities more attractive and more livable as centers of employment, culture and recreation,” Mayor Stratton said.

Mayor Stratton said Senator Clinton has been especially supportive of Schenectady, helping to bring millions of dollars in federal aid and opportunity to the city. “When it comes to addressing Schenectady’s special needs as a community – including public safety, infrastructure investment, or quality of life issues in our cities, Hillary Clinton truly gets it,” he said.

The Mayor’s early endorsement of Senator Clinton for President continues a trend of firsts for the City of Schenectady and Schenectady County. In 2000, the Schenectady County Democratic Committee was the first county in New York to endorse her candidacy for the United States Senate.

Mayor Stratton joined other upstate mayors met last week for a private meeting with Senator Clinton in her Washington, D.C. office to discuss a range of issues important to Schenectady and upstate New York. They discussed increased federal funding for community policing, the continuation of the federal Community Development Block Grant program, as well as funding for brownfield clean-up, economic development initiatives and more funding for after-school programs.

“For more than an hour, Senator Clinton listened to my concerns about the needs of Schenectady, as well as those of Albany, Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo and Mount Vernon. Then, she pledged her commitment to fight for increased funding for these initiatives in the new federal budget,” Mayor Stratton said.

Mayor Stratton was among more than 200 mayors from across the country in Washington last week for the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) winter meeting. As part of that meeting, Senator Clinton addressed the mayors and pledged her support for the USCM 10-point plan for strengthening the nation’s cities.

Entitled “*Strong Cities, Strong Families ... for a Strong America*,” the USCM plan outlines 10 legislative priorities for 2007, focusing on increased federal support for community policing and crime-prevention programs, brown field clean-up, affordable housing, tax incentives for infrastructure improvements, homeland security, children and education, and community development block grants.

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“Senator Clinton has consistently listened to and responded to our needs of a community in need,” the Mayor said. “Her support for expanding the boundaries of Schenectady’s federal Renewal Community program has brought the tax benefits of this program begun by her husband to all of downtown Schenectady.”

“Senator Clinton has already shown that she understands what is important to Schenectady, to all New Yorkers, and the nation. I know she will be an outstanding President, and I am proud to endorse her,” Mayor Stratton said.