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Mayor

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**STRATTON DEFENDS SCHENECTADY IN LETTER PUBLISHED
BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

Mayor Disputes News Magazine's Dreary Assessment of Schenectady

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Brian U. Stratton today announced that the national weekly news periodical, U.S. News & World Report, has published his letter to the editor in response to the magazine's January 8th article, "*The Forgotten New York*," which paints a bleak picture of Schenectady and the upstate economy.

"Contrary to the magazine's dreary assessment of upstate New York in general, and its use of Schenectady as emblematic of upstate's rust and decay, our city has made tremendous progress over the past three years. When it comes to Schenectady, U.S. News just got it plain wrong," Mayor Stratton said.

In his letter (copy attached), which appears on pages 6-7 in the January 29 - February 6 issue of the widely read national and international news weekly, Mayor Stratton says although upstate New York has faced economic challenges for decades, a new administration in Schenectady is bringing millions in new investment and new life to the city, making it an exception to the general perception of the region.

The Mayor's letter cites the more than \$150 million in new investment for downtown projects, including a new hotel, movie cinema, loft housing, high tech offices, restaurants, Proctor's Theater and a new YMCA.

In the original January 8th article (copy attached), U.S. News reporter Kit R. Roane discusses Schenectady's glorious industrial past, as home to General Electric and the American Locomotive Company, but uses the city's steady loss of thousands of GE jobs and the closure of the locomotive plant in the late 1960s as a death knell for the city.

Mayor Stratton said that while reporter Roane also brings up Gov. Eliot Spitzer's well publicized campaign proclamation of upstate New York's similarities to Appalachia, the new Governor has repeatedly hailed Schenectady's dramatic progress.

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“Governor Spitzer has publicly praised the work we have done to turn this city around, and he has publicly singled Schenectady out as an example for how revitalization efforts should work all across upstate New York,” the Mayor said.

“Nowhere in its article, did U.S. News refer to what we our administration has done over the last three years to bring new hope and new opportunity to Schenectady. U.S. News didn’t bother to report the more than \$150 million in new investment we have brought to our downtown, or the tremendous progress this administration has made in restoring fiscal integrity.

Stratton tells U.S. News readers that when he became mayor in 2004, Schenectady was on the brink of financial collapse, with a projected \$10 million deficit and the lowest junk-bond credit rating in the state. Since that time, the Mayor and City Council have worked to erase the deficit, generate a surplus of nearly \$5 million, and returned the city’s credit rating to investment grade.

U.S. News & World Report is a weekly news magazine focusing on national and international news, business and science, with a reported circulation of more than 2 million readers.

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Mayor Stratton’s letter appears in the January 29-February 6 issue of U.S. News & World Report, cover pictured here. His letter can also be read on line at www.usnews.com in the “Letters” link page.

