



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## ***Mayor Gary R. McCarthy Announces Schenectady to Create New Technology Partnerships***

***New Partnerships will Increase Public Safety,  
Provide Educational Benefits, and Promote an  
Innovative and Sustainable Schenectady***

**Schenectady, NY** - Mayor Gary McCarthy was joined by Assemblymembers Pat Fahy and Angelo Santabarbara, as well as representatives from Assemblymember Phil Steck's Office, Wise Labs, and Wink, to introduce several exciting new technology partnerships that will improve public safety, provide educational benefits, and promote an innovative and sustainable Schenectady.

"Technology is changing the way that we live our lives and should change the way we govern," said Mayor Gary R. McCarthy. "This unique opportunity will help put Schenectady on the cutting edge of future technology advancements."

In April of 2015, Mayor McCarthy and the City Council joined with other municipal leaders around the state to call for the adoption of the Streetlight Replacement and Savings Act. The legislation, sponsored by Assemblymember Fahy and co-sponsored by Assemblymember Steck, allows municipalities to assume ownership rights of its street lights and creates a less costly electric rate for municipalities that use energy efficient LED street lights. Schenectady pays more than a million dollars a year for street light electricity and maintenance. This switch could save the City approximately half of its energy usage for these types of lights.

"Schenectady will be able to reap the benefits of the Streetlight Replacement and Savings Act and I applaud the City's partnership with Wise Labs and Wink for making it a reality for the residents and businesses of the Electric City. This will lead to cost savings for the City of Schenectady and will lead to a path forward to upgrade streetlights to save future energy costs," said Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy.

**\*More\***

“These projects are great examples of utilizing new technology that is not only more environmentally sustainable but economically sustainable as well. We must continue to build on exciting new partnerships such as these for our communities and the future of our children” said Assemblymember Phil Steck.

"This common-sense legislation allows cities like Schenectady to make smart investments in 21st century infrastructure that will help us reduce energy costs, create sustainable communities, and protect our environment," said Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara. "This partnership exemplifies what can be accomplished when state and local governments work together with the private sector to provide the best value for our communities."

The savings from this critical change will allow Schenectady to move forward with more efficient lighting throughout the City. Advanced street lighting technology can reduce energy costs and new options such as smart lighting that dims and brightens city lights based on time and activity. This platform also allows for the expanded implementation of High Definition cameras that will aid law enforcement to effectively use resources and a WiFi infrastructure that will support improved services and allow fast and secure public internet access.

Mayor McCarthy also announced that, building on the momentum of these technology initiatives, Schenectady has incorporated Wink services in City Hall for the seamless integration of technology and will partner with Wise Labs for the creation of a municipal innovation incubator. Wink, with a significant Schenectady presence, is showcasing its technology platform which provides quick and simple ways to connect the products people rely on in their homes and businesses. The incubator, which will be an initiative within the Electric City Innovation Center that Wise Labs is launching in Center City Schenectady, will develop new technologies with municipal applications for more efficient and responsive government.

“We’re excited to mobilize our technical community and engage the citizens, businesses and entrepreneurs of Schenectady and the Capital Region to develop amazing new applications in partnership with the City of Schenectady. Together, we can help municipalities operate more efficiently and responsively and directly improve the quality of life for residents and businesses,” said Wise Labs president, Jon Glass.

"Energy savings are one of the primary benefits of home automation for consumers," said Nathan Smith, Founder and CTO, Wink. "We're excited to partner with the City of Schenectady and amplify those benefits in the public arena. Integration of smart wall switches and voice control will provide a myriad of new opportunities to more easily monitor and control lighting throughout City Hall."

**\*More\***

**About Schenectady's Jay Street Pilot Light Program**

[www.cityofschenectady.com/Smart\\_Lighting.html](http://www.cityofschenectady.com/Smart_Lighting.html)

The City now has 6 Wi-Fi enabled energy efficient LED street lights that when completed will be reactive to both changing lighting levels as well as motion detection. These state of the art lights have built in reporting that will allow the City to analyze electricity usage as well as notify staff of maintenance issues immediately. Three of these lights are outfitted with video cameras which will be capable to provide any number of analytics. A parking app is currently under construction, allowing a user to check a web site on their phone to see if parking is available. The potential is endless and can include environmental sensors, performing traffic counts, vehicle speed measurements as well as providing extra security with a video surveillance feature. All of these features are possible as well as having the main benefits of saving energy costs, and reducing emissions in the City.

**About Wise Labs**

[www.wiselabs.com](http://www.wiselabs.com)

Wise Labs is a technology commercialization firm built around a community of experienced scientists and engineers – including former technologists from GE Global Research in Niskayuna – who are passionate about inventing amazing new things and solving tough technical challenges. Wise Labs connects its community with business partners who seek to benefit from deep technical expertise and brilliant new ideas. Our partners include companies searching for new product ideas or elegant solutions to technical issues, investors looking for “the next new thing”, and research institutions seeking new paths to market for their intellectual property. We show our partners the way to differentiated concepts and proven technical expertise to build great things.

**About Wink**

[www.wink.com](http://www.wink.com)

Wink is the platform that makes the smart home accessible by bringing hundreds of products from 35 trusted brands together. With Wink, you can easily monitor and control your home through the Wink app on iOS or Android mobile devices. Our products are available in The Home Depot stores nationwide in the U.S. and Canada, in addition to Amazon.com. They include the Wink HUB, a translator that enables different products to work together and communicate with the Wink app, and Wink Relay, a touchscreen control panel that brings the Wink app to your wall. For more information, visit [wink.com](http://wink.com).

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