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PRESS RELEASE

Community Meeting Scheduled for Stockade Flood Mitigation Project

*City will be working with River Street Planning & Development and Mesick Cohen
Wilson Baker Architects*

SCHENECTADY – The City of Schenectady has been awarded funding by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through the New York Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) to work with the community in determining a preferred approach to mitigate the impact of flooding in the Stockade neighborhood and assist property owners to preserve their homes.

Mayor Gary McCarthy announced that city staff and project team members are planning a community meeting on **October 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** to introduce the project, gather initial feedback, and answer questions. The meeting will be held at St. George's Church, 30 North Ferry Street, Schenectady, New York 12305.

“We look forward to working with the neighborhood as community input is a vital component of this major project,” **Mayor McCarthy said**. “Conducting a comprehensive community engagement process and evaluating all identified potential mitigation alternatives will allow us to implement the best practicable solution for the Stockade.”

The City of Schenectady will be working with River Street Planning & Development to assist with project management and community engagement. Technical services will be coordinated by a team of professionals led by Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects that includes engineers, community designers, hydrologists, and cultural resource specialists.

The first phase of the project, which has been funded in the amount of \$1,206,000, involves conducting a Comprehensive Mitigation Analysis to evaluate existing conditions, evaluate alternatives, and recommend a preferred mitigation solution. At the completion of Phase One, FEMA will consider awarding just over \$7,545,000 for construction in Phase Two. It is anticipated that Phase One will be completed by the end of 2019.

“It has become a priority to address the Stockade Historic District's vulnerability to the long-standing issue of flooding which involves a diverse range of stakeholders,” **said Kristin Diotte, the City of Schenectady's Director of Development**. “City staff and the design team that has been assembled are dedicated to working with residents in arriving at a comprehensive solution that will protect and preserve the character of this historic neighborhood for a resilient future.”

This project builds on design guidelines developed in 2017 with funding from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

For more information, please contact Kristin Diotte, Director of Development for the City of Schenectady at kdiotte@schenectadyny.gov or 518-382-5147.