

City & Town of Batavia

PRESS RELEASE

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Batavia Consolidation Committee Releases First Report to Community – “A Vision for One Batavia” Announces Public Forums to be held June 18 & 30

Batavia, NY – *June 1, 2009* – The Batavia City/Town Consolidation Study Committee presented its “First Report to the Community – *A Vision for One Batavia*” at a joint City Council and Town Board meeting held at the Town Hall. The Committee also announced dates for two public forums and said extensive supporting information for its report will be available on the Batavia Consolidation Plan website (<http://www.cgr.org/bataviaconsolidationplan>) beginning June 2.

This report is the first step in a multi-step civic engagement process that the Committee envisions will lead to voters making an informed decision in what is likely to culminate in a November referendum. The public forums are the second step. The forums will be held Thursday, June 18 at City Hall and Tuesday, June 30 at the Town Hall. Both forums are scheduled for 7 p.m. (Note: Locations for the public forum are subject to change. Updates will be posted on the website.)

Community Feedback is Essential

The First Report to the Community – *A Vision for One Batavia* is about options for combining the City and Town of Batavia, and the forums are the public’s opportunity to provide input and feedback about the options, the Committee said. “Our initial report provides important information about key issues, including options for the form of governance, and also addresses cost, tax, efficiency and service impacts. After hearing from the community, we will develop a model of a single government to present to the Town and City governments.”

At the June forums, Committee members and the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), a nonprofit consulting group based in Rochester that is assisting with the project, will present highlights and findings contained in the first community report.

“From this point forward feedback from the community becomes essential,” the Committee emphasized. “We invite the public to participate in shaping the model for a proposed single government for our community.”

Leaders Commend Study Committee

Town Supervisor Gregory Post and City Council President Charlie Mallow commended the Study Committee for months of research and analysis that led up to the release of the first report to the community.

“We have all been waiting for this moment,” said Mallow. “Now that the results of the study will be known, it is the public’s turn to play a key role in determining the shape of what could be a very exciting future for our community. I am eager to hear the Committee’s vision for one Batavia.”

Post added, “I’ve long believed that there are many benefits to consolidation. We can make our governments more efficient today, but the real payoff will come for the generations that come after us. I sincerely hope as many people as possible will attend the public forums and participate in the public engagement process. What the community has to say will really matter.”

Both pointed to the Batavia Consolidation web site as a valuable resource for residents to learn what the Committee has learned after months of research. Residents can download key documents, email the study team, and get alerts when new documents are added to the web site.

Consolidation Study Committee Members

Committee members are Lynn Freeman, Sally Kuzon, Steven Lockwood, Beverly Mancuso, Jason Molino, Steven Mountain, and Jeffrey Scott.

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