



City of Saratoga Springs

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Joanne D. Yepsen, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [September 21, 2016](#)

FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR JOANNE D. YEPSEN

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY. – The City of Saratoga Springs publicly released a diagnostic report on the city’s zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations and standard construction details on Tuesday [September 6th](#) after the City Council meeting, completing the first phase of a projected year and a half-long plan to overhaul and simplify zoning by city staff and Behan Planning and Design, a Saratoga Springs-based consulting firm. **A public meeting to discuss the findings of the report is scheduled for Tuesday, [September 27th, 2016](#) at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 474 Broadway, in the upstairs Music Hall.** The Diagnostic Report, 54 pages long and divided into seven areas of inquiry, is the first tangible product of the evaluation process.

The Zoning Diagnostic Report is the first step in the future creation of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). It evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of the zoning ordinance, how well it is equipped to implement the 2015 Comprehensive Plan as well as other City adopted plans and policies, and provides an assessment of usability and clarity. This step was designed to enable a discussion at a public meeting—and eventual consensus—on the necessary course of action prior to drafting any new codes.

Part Two of this report is numbered so that the City Council and the larger community can track identified issues and potential solutions, provide input to the direction on priority strategies and changes which should be pursued moving forward. It does not include or suggest specific code language. Specific code language will be developed later in the first drafts of the UDO.

“The City of Saratoga Springs is pleased to present the results of the evaluation phase of the Unified Development Ordinance to the public,” said Mayor Joanne Yepsen. “The City looks forward to the public workshop and listening to the feedback regarding the general policy direction and items of concern.”

All local residents, property and business owners are encouraged to review the report and attend the meeting if they have questions. Additional public meetings are anticipated later in the process to discuss the draft Unified Development Ordinance once it is prepared.

For more information related to this project and to review the zoning diagnostic report, please visit: www.saratogaspringsudo.com.



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Background: The UDO project is an effort to update the local codes to align with the recommendations of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan and introduce initiatives which are aimed to improve the long-term health and sustainability of the city. This project is part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Cleaner, Greener Communities program, a major statewide initiative encouraging communities to incorporate sustainability goals and principles into local decision-making, and then form partnerships to transform markets that lead to the reduction of emissions and the generation of economic development benefits. The program, administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), also empowers communities to take action, providing technical resources and decision-making tools on land use, housing, transportation, energy, economic development and environmental practices, resulting in a more vibrant and prosperous New York.

Cleaner, Greener Communities is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's first market-based regulatory program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. RGGI is a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to cap and reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector.

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