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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Mayor Gary McCarthy Announces  
City Court Victory in Code Enforcement  
Case Regarding Convenient Store**

**Schenectady, NY** – This morning in Schenectady City Court, Salem Ali, owner of the former Chubby’s Convenience Store located at 1030 Crane Street in Schenectady, plead guilty to two misdemeanor counts of section 183-5 of the Schenectady City Code for illegally operating a business without the necessary certificates. The terms of the plea require him to permanently close the store, pay a \$1,000 fine, perform 200 hours of community service, and not to own or operate a business in Schenectady for a period of 1 year. The court case was part of the City’s continuing coordinated effort to combat quality of life crimes, including convenient stores operating without appropriate licenses.

“This is a big win for the residents of the City of Schenectady. For too long this business contributed to a negative environment encouraging illegal activities that harmed the neighborhood,” Mayor Gary McCarthy said. “This is a strong message that we’ll take whatever actions which are necessary to keep our citizens safe and root out crime from our neighborhoods.”

For years Chubby’s has been the home of significant criminal problems, with numerous serious crimes occurring on the premises. The business generated over 500 public safety calls in over 9 months in 2015 alone.

In September of 2016 the defendant was cited with 16 counts of operating without a certificate of use, which is necessary for all convenience stores in Schenectady. On November 7th, 2016 the case proceeded to Schenectady City Court, where the case was closed with today’s plea. The case was prosecuted by Carl Falotico, Corporation Counsel, and Krystina Smith, Assistant Corporation Counsel, of the City Law Department.

The City is continuing its coordinated effort, which brings together the Police Department, Code Enforcement, the Law Department, Development Department, to improve the quality of life in City neighborhoods.

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