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Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor

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STATEMENT

Mayor Gary McCarthy Statement on the Passing of Karen B. Johnson

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Gary McCarthy released the following statement regarding the passing of Karen B. Johnson:

“Our hearts are heavy today as we learn of the passing of Karen Johnson. Karen was a monumental leader in our community. She was a role model, a champion of the arts and education, and a true public servant whose impact, passion, and kindness continue to radiate through Schenectady each and every day. I am forever grateful to have had Karen as a mentor and as a friend. She will be greatly missed.”

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Karen B. Johnson served as Mayor of the City of Schenectady from 1984 – 1991.

After becoming involved with the local school board and numerous community organizations, Karen was elected to the Schenectady City Council in 1975. In 1977, she joined a group of concerned residents that saved Proctors from the wrecking ball. Karen later worked at Proctors as the Campaign Development Director, and as its Director of Planned Giving.

In 1983, Karen was elected President of the Schenectady City Council. That same year, she made history as the first woman elected as Mayor of Schenectady. She was then re-elected in 1987 and served as President of the New York Conference of Mayors in 1991. She was elected to the Schenectady County Legislature in 2001, where she served as Vice-Chair of the Legislature, and as Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee.