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Mayor

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## ***Mayor McCarthy Kicks off Annual Neighborhood Code Compliance Review***

### ***Schenectady Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, and Zoning Team-up to Protect Neighborhood Quality of Life and Public Safety***

**SCHENECTADY**– Schenectady Police Department, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, Office of General Services, Animal Control, and Department of Development representatives will conduct Neighborhood Code Compliance Reviews (NCCRs) beginning in the Northside of the City. The purpose of this effort is to try to work with homeowners while attempting to rid the City of blight and bring properties up to the New York State Property Maintenance and City Codes.

“In 2011, we began these neighborhood reviews as part of a comprehensive effort to improve quality of life in the neighborhoods,” said Mayor Gary McCarthy. “We compliment the many property owners who maintain their properties and we give polite notices of non-compliance for first notices or minor problems. Last year, we had over eighty percent compliance based off of these notices. To those individuals that have been bigger problems in our neighborhoods, we send a clear and unified message that it will not be tolerated.”

Departments conduct an exterior code review of homes and properties in the area to offer Courtesy Notices for Code Violations and prescriptive measures to correct.

This is an educational effort to point out what may not be an obvious code violation for typical properties and educating property owners on how to address this and improve the value of their property asset and provide an overall benefit to the neighborhood. Residents will be issued a courtesy notice during the initial NCCR in their area asking that repairs or deficiencies be made within a reasonable timeframe.

**\*MORE\***

The Schenectady Police Department continues to use the Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety. Crime and crash data are analyzed, hotspots are identified, and police and other City resources are deployed where our hotspots overlap. The Police Department is sharing its analytical products with other City departments who have a common goal of decreasing social harms and enhancing the quality of life in City neighborhoods. Schenectady has seen 31.3% reduction in Part 1 (the most serious) crimes from the five year average.

Some of the violations officers will be looking for are:

- Deteriorated roofs that are not weather tight
- Open & vacant structures
- Deteriorated and unsound structures
- Missing siding
- Open cracks and breaks in foundation walls
- Visible House Numbers
- Holes and/or rotting boards in exterior walls
- Proper electrical service connections
- Deteriorated, stagnant swimming pools
- Structurally sound porches, decks or steps
- Chipped and/or peeling paint
- Exterior sanitary conditions
- Appropriate porch railings
- Rodent harborage
- Code-compliant exhaust vents
- Deteriorating chimney bricks
- Unlicensed dogs

Properties tend to follow a predictable and costly seven year cycle, moving from mildly distressed to blighted or vacant and some ultimately in need of demolition. Breaking that cycle is key to neighborhood revitalization efforts. Schenectady recently kicked off a pilot program with CTG, Troy, Gloversville, and Amsterdam to combat blight and better manage distressed properties through an innovative information sharing initiative. Additionally, the City is investing over \$10 million in the next few years to remove blighted structures and rehab other properties.