



"History's Hometown"

CITY OF AUBURN

Office of the Mayor
Honorable Michael D. Quill

May 31, 2016

Mr. James Fayle, Regional Director
CNY Regional Economic Development Council
Syracuse Regional Office
620 Erie Blvd. West
Syracuse, NY 13204

Dear Mr. Fayle:

The City of Auburn is proud to submit this application for New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding through the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council. Over twenty years of effort to establish Auburn's Harriet Tubman Home as a National Park was realized this past year. These efforts were further bolstered this spring when Harriet Tubman was declared to be the next face of the twenty dollar bill. Auburnians have always been proud of Harriet and our other local historic leaders like William Seward, and now we will get to share their stories with a greater audience so their legacies will live on.

The timing could not be better. A decade of planning, improvements, and investment has transformed our downtown into a vibrant, bustling place to gather and live. The City's upcoming Owasco River Trail Project will intersect with the Harriet Tubman Memorial Highway (Rte. 34) right in the middle of downtown. Apartments and businesses continue to be resurrected in previously vacant buildings. Plans for an appropriate visitor welcoming center for worldwide tourists coming to visit the Harriet Tubman National Park and associated sites top our list of things to do.

These sites will be complimented by new entertainment venues, new public gathering space, a permanent home for our 66 year old farmers market, more new housing downtown, and the availability of a broad range of employment opportunities with our diverse and expanding local employers. Auburn has broad support from the community, local developers, and local foundations to kick off projects quickly if we are selected as the recipient of the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding in the Central New York Region.

We are confident you will be as excited about Auburn's history and our ability to reinvent ourselves as we are. Auburn is the epitome of a small New York State city with big history and a strong future.

Enthusiastically submitted,

Michael D. Quill
Mayor

Cc: City Councilors
DRI Working Group Members
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