



*"History's Hometown"*

CITY OF AUBURN

Office of the City Clerk  
Chuck Mason, City Clerk

For Immediate Release  
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**Statement from Mayor Michael D. Quill on the  
New York State 2016 Downtown Revitalization Initiative Program**

On behalf of the City of Auburn and members of the City Council I would like to thank the Governor for providing this opportunity for cities throughout the State and we congratulate the 10 cities that have been awarded.

These are exciting times for Downtown Auburn. We have experienced a magnificent renaissance in recent years and we are poised for continued growth. The City of Auburn presented a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Plan that excited and energized our community. We agree with the Governor's assertion that we are better poised for continued development for having gone through this process. Our plan as submitted will continue to guide our future Downtown Economic Development efforts.

We would like to recognize all of our City staff, Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) staff, the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce, the Cayuga Economic Development Agency (CEDA) and all of the Downtown Revitalization Plan committee members for their significant contributions and enthusiasm for our plan. We came together on very short notice with very tight deadlines and put together a remarkable plan that we can all be proud of. I would also like to thank our State representatives Assemblyman Finch, Senator DeFrancisco and especially Senator Nozzolio for all of his insight and guidance for our Downtown over the years and in this process.

We would also like to recognize the property owners and business owners of our Downtown BID. Auburn's BID was established in 2000 and has been a catalyst for Downtown improvements ever since. Your investments and efforts are recognized as key to the success our Downtown has had.

We would also like to recognize the AME Zion Church, the Tubman Boosters and all Tubman descendants for all of their diligent efforts to keep the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and preservation of the Tubman legacy at the forefront of our economic development efforts. Like Harriet herself would have done, we will keep going forward with our efforts.

We encourage Governor Cuomo to not overlook the regional economic potential of the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. The State's verbal support over the years has been greatly appreciated; however, the time has now come that if this project is going to be established in a way that maximizes the benefit to the regional economy, the State of New York will need to become a contributing partner. The establishment of the Tubman Park is an iconic opportunity for our State. It is imperative that the Regional Economic Development Council (CNY-REDC), the State, and Governor Cuomo recognize this opportunity. As the mayor of History's Hometown for the last eight years, my next immediate step will be to invite the Governor to Auburn, so that he himself can see first-hand the regional, state and national significance of the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.

Again, we would like to congratulate the cities that were awarded the 2016 Downtown Revitalization Initiative grants. Downtown Auburn is experiencing an exciting renaissance and we look forward to working towards Auburn's future success.

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