



CITY OF AUBURN

"History's Hometown"

Office of the Mayor
Honorable Michael D. Quill

July 14, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor,

I am writing to invite you to Auburn, New York to meet with us to discuss how the State of New York can partner with us on the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.

After a nearly two decade effort on behalf of hundreds of individuals and groups, the City of Auburn is proud to be home to the recently established Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. The National Park Service (NPS) will be administrating sites associated with Tubman and NPS (federal government) investment in the restoration, rehabilitation and historic interpretation of the Tubman sites is about to begin. This will be a methodical process that will likely come to fruition over the next 3-5 years. As Auburn was Harriet Tubman's hometown for the final 50 years of her life, sites associated with Tubman are scattered about Auburn's landscape. These sites include her personal homestead and her nursing facility for former slaves, the Home for the Aged, located on New York State Route 34 which was designated by New York State as the Harriet Tubman Memorial Byway in 2010; her Church, the historic AME Zion Church on Parker Street; and, her gravesite at Auburn's historic Fort Hill Cemetery.

With the expected combination of Harriet Tubman as the new face to the U.S. \$20 bill and the opening of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park by the year 2020, The City of Auburn and the National Park Service anticipate tourist visitation to increase steadily in the immediate term and then grow significantly for the next decade. This is an iconic project and we believe with the partnership of the State of New York it can have a significant regional economic development impact.

We look forward to scheduling a time that you can visit Auburn to learn more about our plan to move forward with the establishment of the park and hope that you recognize that the State of New York has an opportunity to partner with us to maximize its economic potential.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Quill
Mayor