



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: January 23, 2014

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
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**MINER LAYS OUT VISION FOR
REIMAGINING SYRACUSE IN 2014 STATE
OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

*Speech, Delivered at Newly Renovated St. Patrick's Lofts, Highlights
Vision for Next Year of the Administration*

*Miner: One of the Biggest Challenges We Face in Government is
Fighting for Creative Ideas*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner delivered her fifth annual State of the City message tonight to a crowd in the gymnasium at the Lofts at St. Patrick's on Lowell Avenue. The address focused on the City's fiscal challenges, neighborhood and economic development, and laid out several new priorities for the next year.

“One of the biggest challenges we face in government is fighting for creative ideas every day,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “It is important that we as leaders reflect on what we have accomplished and confront the challenges ahead. I look forward to working in the year to come to make these goals into realities.”

Mayor Miner used her speech to highlight major achievements as well as new policies and initiatives, including:

- **Pension Smoothing Savings** Because the City of Syracuse opted not to participate in New York State's pension rate stabilization program last year, Syracuse will save over \$9 million in the next 15 years.



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- **Syracuse Main Street Program** The Syracuse Main Street Program will fund the renovation of building facades along major neighborhood business corridors. The program will be piloted along the South Avenue and Grant Boulevard/Butternut Circle corridors. Funding for the Syracuse Main Street Program will come in the form of grants from the Syracuse Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO). Grants will be up to \$50,000 and require a 25% applicant match.
- **Gang Director** Utilizing funds from a federal grant, the City of Syracuse has hired a Gang Director to work with the TRUCE project to better facilitate communication between gang members looking to turn around their lives and law enforcement and social service agencies. The newly appointed gang director is Lawrence Williams.
- **City Operations Review Committee** Recognizing the financial challenges facing the City of Syracuse, Mayor Miner has brought together department leaders and budget officials to study what services the City provides. This examination of operations will help further streamline city services.
- **Parking App** Used extensively in major cities across Europe, Whoosh! is a pay for parking smart phone application which allows users to pay for parking without using a standard meter or pay station. It works by registering their license plate number through the app and paying for parking electronically.
- **Stadium Task Force** The Mayor, working with Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud, will convene a task force to study the community and economic impacts of a new sports arena.

The program was opened by Ben Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development. The invocation was given by Father Kevin Maloney of the St. Patrick & St. Brigid Parish. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from All Saints Elementary School. The benediction was offered by Pastor Daren Jaime of the People's AME Zion Church.

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A video of the speech will be available on the [City of Syracuse YouTube page](#). A PDF version of the remarks as prepared for delivery can be found on the City of Syracuse website, www.syr.gov.net.

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