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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Saratoga Springs Settles with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Regarding its 2007 Investigation

Provides for Local Environmental Benefits Projects, with "Closure and Significant Savings" Realized, Says Mayor Johnson

The City Council of Saratoga Springs has today approved a negotiated settlement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with respect to the DEC's 2007 investigation of alleged violations at the City's Department of Public Works garage and compost facility.

"This settlement represents both closure and significant savings to the City and its taxpayers," said Mayor Scott Johnson. "The DEC investigation was pending when I took office in January 2008. By working together, the Council was able to achieve a successful completion by reducing potential fines and providing environmental benefits. Despite no one wanting to pay fines or penalties, we are very pleased with the results. An unfortunate and precarious situation has been brought to the best resolution possible for the City."

The City's settlement with DEC avoids a multi-million dollar penalty that the City could have faced under the DEC's statutes and regulations if the City had litigated these issues in a lengthy, costly enforcement proceeding. As a result, the City has agreed to allocate \$185,000 to develop "Environmental Benefits Projects" in the City, to be determined, and pay a \$50,000 civil penalty and \$35,000 in administrative costs. Consistent with the DEC's policy, the projects will be directed to City projects that "improve, restore, protect, and/or reduce risks to public health and/or the environment" beyond that achieved by the City's continued compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

"The agreement enables us to route funds for local, environmental-friendly programs, including specialized training of public works personnel," said Anthony "Skip" Scirocco, Commissioner of the City's Public Works Department.

"Education is the key to avoid any future problems," said Commissioner Scirocco.

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