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## 9/11 memorial sculpture won't be placed outside of Saratoga Springs City Center

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SARATOGA SPRINGS — The 9/11 sculpture being created for Saratoga Springs will not be placed at the City Center as was originally proposed.

Instead, the lawn in front of the city's Visitor's Center across from Congress Park is the new front-runner to receive the memorial art.

The sculpture is being constructed from steel beams pulled from the World Trade Center wreckage following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The project, called Tempered by Memory, is scheduled to debut on the 10th anniversary of the attacks.

It was originally supposed to be located in front of the City Center, but that plan fell by the wayside as the structure grew.

"It really couldn't fit at that location," Mayor Scott Johnson said at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. "The mass and scale of the sculpture have evolved."

The mayor met with members of the Arts Council, the artists, members of the Department of Public Works and the City Center Authority to discuss the issue and alternative sites.

Johnson said Congress Park was considered, but there were concerns about whether the art would fit in with the other structures in the park, and there is a lot of red tape to be cut through in order to add to the park.

The working concept now is to place the sculpture on the lawn of the Visitor's Center on Broadway. "At this point in time, it certainly looks like it will be our site," Johnson said. He said the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation has reviewed the site and has offered no objections to the proposal.

“It looks like it will be better than the original site,” the mayor added, pointing out that it provides a more dynamic, 360-degree view of the sculpture. “As you walk around it, you will see different perspectives.”

Saratoga Arts Executive Director Joel Reed said the city was “awarded a significant amount of steel” from the Twin Towers because of “a recognition of the unique vision we in Saratoga Springs had to fabricate a modern work of art from this.”

He said the goal of the artists and Arts Council was to have the event of 9/11 memorialized and reflected in the piece, “but at the same time be able to represent them in an uplifting piece,” and that it is geared to evoke an uplifting spirit. “In a way, it was a challenge to make 25,000 pounds of steel fly,” Reed said.

But that process, as it turns out, requires more room than the front of the City Center will allow.