



**FOR RELEASE: Immediately, Monday, October 1, 2007**  
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**JOHNSON COMMENDS COMMISSIONER KIM FOR SUPPORTING HIS PLAN TO  
FUND THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

*Mayoral candidate's plan would cost less, give City more financial freedom*

Scott Johnson's plan to fund the Public Safety Building, while at the same time helping to solve the parking problem, has now received support from Ron Kim, the Commissioner of Public Safety. Several weeks ago, the Republican candidate for Mayor released his innovative idea that would use private contractors to build the public safety building, in conjunction with a parking garage for long needed downtown parking, while not affecting the long term debt of the city.

"Saratoga Springs needs solid leadership that isn't afraid of new ideas and can think 'outside the box'," said Johnson. "Originally, this proposal received no support from the City Council. They were content with constructing a building that would cost more than it should have, while handcuffing the City's future, by saddling it with long term bonded debt. As Mayor, I guarantee that I will always look closely at all proposals and I will never leave a good idea on the table. I will always do whatever is necessary to lessen the taxpayer's burden."

Johnson's plan was the first to favor the private development proposal, which has no up front costs for the City. While it is a new concept to our City, it is used and accepted elsewhere. The complex would be legally owned by a newly formed not-for-profit entity, governed by a majority-controlled board of City appointees. Its future direction, including whether to end the lease term or to exercise an option to purchase, would be controlled by the City. At the end of the lease term, the city can gain ownership, by payment of \$1.

"However, unlike Commissioner Kim, I think it is dangerous to rely on VLT funding to help with the lease payment," added Johnson. "The VLT money is only given on a year to year basis and we are presently at the mercy of the State for future monies. We would be in quite a mess if we needed those funds for a newly constructed building and the State took them away. There are other, more reliable ways to fund the project and keep us out of debt. As elected officials, we must constantly control the increasing cost of living in our fine city."

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