

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Batavia's Top Elected Leaders Jointly Endorse Consolidation Planning  
Announce "Batavia Consolidation Plan" Website to Launch This Week**

Batavia, NY – *February 2, 2009* – Noting that the “topic of consolidation has generated tremendous interest in Batavia in recent weeks,” Town Supervisor Greg Post and City Council President Charlie Mallow today issued a joint statement endorsing the work of the joint consolidation planning committee. They also announced that by the end of the week the City and Town websites will have links to a special “Batavia Consolidation Plan” website so that area residents can stay informed about the planning process.

Mallow and Post pointed out that the actual work of developing the plan is the responsibility of the seven-member City/Town Consolidation Study Committee that is working with the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), a nonprofit consulting group based in Rochester. “Although we do not sit on the Committee, we were both pleased with its decision – one recently endorsed by our respective boards – to move from a ‘study’ to a ‘plan,’” they said.

Post added, “I’m a believer in smaller government and I’m action-oriented. This community does not need a study that sits on a shelf. It needs a plan so that Town voters have the choice of saying *yes* or *no*.”

Mallow said, “I’m a firm believer in consolidating the City and Town, because there are so many benefits for our community going forward. Consolidation will positively impact every generation that comes after us.”

They pointed out that the Committee will develop a report of model options for the combined community by June 1. The Committee will then hold community forums for the public to provide input in June and July. Based on the input, the Committee will develop a draft plan to present to the City Council and Town Board in early August. Assuming City Council and the Town Board approve, a consolidation plan will be presented to City and Town voters at the November 3 election.

*(more)*

### **Web-based Resource for Residents**

Charles Zettek, Jr., Vice President and Director of Government Services for CGR, said the new website will include information about the study, key documents, a timetable and more. “We’ll be adding information to the site as it becomes available and residents will be able to download documents they want to read or share.” Residents will be able to access the site by going to the Town’s website ([www.townofbatavia.com](http://www.townofbatavia.com)), the City’s website ([www.batavianewyork.com](http://www.batavianewyork.com)) or CGR’s website ([www.cgr.org](http://www.cgr.org)), he said.

“Having CGR provide this resource is a cost-effective way to have information available to everyone at the same time,” said City Manager Jason Molino, who serves on the Committee.

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***Editor’s Note:*** see the attached Consolidation Plan Process Flowchart for key steps in the process.