Creating One Batavia

Merging the Town and City into one City of Batavia
Presented by
Consolidated Charter Task Force of Batavia

Background

▶ Community has discussed shared services and consolidation for many years

▶ 2008-09 consolidation study suggested that one city could save residents nearly $900,000 in combined costs

▶ Leaders in both communities decided to put the issue to voters

▶ Task Force was formed by the Town and City to generate a new city charter to be voted on by residents in both municipalities

▶ City and Town jointly received a Local Government Efficiency Grant to underwrite the cost of the process

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8-Member Task Force

Town

- Judith Cotton
- Larry Reisdorf
- Marcia Riley
- Chad Zambito (Chair)
- Alan Koch (Alternate)

City

- Dan Jones
- Gail Stevens
- Laura Landers
- Chad Bachorski
- Joe Gerace (Alternate)

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Charge of Task Force

- Develop a new city charter
- Develop the home rule message
- Develop the authorizing legislation
- Establish a formal timeline

- **GOAL:** A referendum on a new city charter in November, 2012

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What the Task Force can and cannot address?

- ▶ The Task Force can:
  - ▶ Propose the form of government
  - ▶ Develop the structure for tiered (zone) services/taxes
  - ▶ Decide on wards vs. at-large voting
  - ▶ Develop the framework for what services will be provided

- ▶ The Task Force cannot:
  - ▶ Rework fiscal impact projections
  - ▶ Address transitional issues and negotiate agreements
  - ▶ Determine final service levels and service quality

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Overview of Process

- ▶ Task Force is charged with developing a new charter
- ▶ Simultaneously, the City & Town must submit legislation authorizing them to hold a referendum on a new city charter pursuant to NYS Home Rule
- ▶ State legislature must approve legislation
- ▶ Task Force must submit new charter to Town Board and City Council
- ▶ Town Board and City Council must hold public hearings
- ▶ Town Board and City Council must develop referendums for their municipalities to vote on in November, 2012

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Timeline

▸ Task Force Meetings
  ▸ www.cgr.org/onebataviacharter/meetings
  ▸ Generally the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays through April 2012
▸ May
  ▸ Town Board and City Council will vote on Home Rule message
  ▸ Task Force will begin Public Hearings
▸ June/July (TBD)
  ▸ Task Force Public Hearings
▸ August
  ▸ City Council and Town Board will receive Draft of new Charter

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Timeline Cont.

▸ August Cont.
  ▸ City Council and Town Board must approve new City Charter for referendum and will hold public hearings
▸ September
  ▸ Referendum goes to Genesee County Board of Elections
▸ November 6, 2012
  ▸ Public Referendum on New City Charter

▸ If approved, New City of Batavia begins January 1, 2014

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Study Consultant – Center for Governmental Research, Inc. (CGR)

- ▸ Founded in 1915, they've been at the forefront of local government efficiency for ninety-seven years
- ▸ Independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization staffed by 15 professionals with expertise in the fields of government management, economic/fiscal analysis, service delivery and community analysis
- ▸ Unmatched experience on issues of dissolution, shared services and consolidation
  - ▸ Forty (40) communities in the past four years alone
  - ▸ Work spanning NJ, NY, OH, MA and ME

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Ways to Engage

- ▸ Previous Study: www.cgr.org/bataviaconsolidationplan

- ▸ Current Study: www.cgr.com/onebataviacharter

- ▸ Center for Governmental Research
  - ▸ Scott Sittig, ssittig@cgr.org
  - ▸ 585-327-7082
  - ▸ 1 South Washington Street, Rochester, NY 14614

- ▸ Public Meetings/Hearings (TBD)

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Questions & Comments

▸ What questions do you have about the process?

▸ What comments do you want the Task Force to hear?

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