

Office of the Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt Announces \$400,000 Awarded For Local Government Efficiency Grant

NORTH TONAWANDA—City of North Tonawanda Mayor Robert G. Ortt today announced that the State of New York has awarded a Local Government Efficiency Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for the consolidation of the Public Safety Answering Points (“PSAP”). This grant was designed to help cover the costs associated with local government’s efforts to reorganize and cut costs toward a regionalized delivery of services. It was an additional incentive for the consolidation and reorganization of dispatch services between North Tonawanda and Niagara County that was completed in July of this year.

“I would like to thank Governor Cuomo and Senator Maziarz for their commitment to saving taxpayer dollars by consolidating government services where appropriate. Transferring police dispatch services to Niagara County will save NT taxpayers \$1.7 million dollars over 5 years, gives NT residents a better service, and did not result in the loss of any jobs. It was the right thing to do. I thought so, the Common Council thought so, the County legislature thought so, Sheriff Voutour thought so, Senator Maziarz thought so, and so does Governor Cuomo,” stated Mayor Ortt.

Sheriff James R. Voutour stated “In these difficult financial times, government must consider ways to consolidate and share services. I commend Mayor Ortt and Chief Randy Szukala for their foresight and support in merging their dispatch into the Niagara County 911 center.”

County Manager Jeffrey M. Glatz praised the efforts of Sheriff Voutour in researching grant opportunities to help with the proposed consolidation of services. Mr. Glatz went on to say that the Sheriff's foresight in seeking alternative funding sources saved both the county and city tax dollars to make the consolidation possible.

Mr. Glatz said this is just another example of the return on investment from the counties grant service provider. Since joining the county in 2012 Four Points Communications of North Tonawanda has acquired \$500,000.00 in grant funds with over 4.6 million in current applications.

Senator George D. Maziarz said, "The awarding of this grant continues to show the State's commitment towards communities looking to cut costs for its residents. The grant will help upgrade the training of the officers, provide the opportunity to purchase new equipment and upgrade current equipment to provide the best services to our community. I applaud Governor Cuomo for selecting such a worthwhile application."

Governor Cuomo announced this week that twenty-one (21) municipalities were awarded grants for their consolidation and reorganization efforts, and this grant was the fourth largest amount issued in the State.

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