CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA

Office of the Mayor

ARTHUR G. PAPPAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Arthur Pappas Promotes "Call to Action" for North Tonawanda Residents

NORTH TONAWANDA — North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas, as well as members of North Tonawanda's Common Council, were present for their November 1st Common Council meeting which began with the presentation of a proclamation to Karen Sorrentino of Unyts, in recognition of Unyts' service to the residents of Western New York and their efforts to provide essential life saving measures by way of blood, tissue and organ donation services.

"The Common Council and I extend our deepest appreciation to UNYTS as we send a "Call to Action" for the citizens of North Tonawanda to donate blood anytime, from November 28th to December 4th, at any UNYTS or Red Cross location," said Mayor Pappas. "By giving blood, you are making sure your family, friends or other members of the community get what they need, whether it's for an emergency blood transfusion or the transplant of an organ for the chronically sick; the efforts of Unyts in community health deserves the recognition it receives."

Unyts - established in downtown Buffalo in 1981 - is among the leading procurement organizations in the United States and is one of only eight centers nationwide housing organ, tissue and eye procurement in one location. The organization has been successful in Western New York with donation levels routinely surpassing the national average. Additionally, Western New York generosity sees organ donation exceeding the national average by 18%. Because of this generosity, UNYTS is ranked as one of the top procurement organizations nationwide. As recently as 1997, UNYTS had just 200 donors; in 2014, the organization surpassed 1,200.

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"Serving the needs of DeGraff Memorial is all about partnerships for us, donors, patients and doctors," said Karen Sorrentino, Relationship Development Manager with Unyts. "Truly, giving the *Gift of Life* would not be possible without the great support from those around us. Donors are confident that their blood donation with Unyts will save someone in their community. We are very grateful for their continued support, especially through the holiday season!"

Unyts operates as a not-for-profit organization serving the eight counties of Western New York and is part of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. For additional information on Unyts, as well as how to set up an appointment for donation, visit www.unytsblooddonor.org or call 716-512-7940.

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