



July 2015

NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

District: 333 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 428-9651 **Albany:** LOB 837, Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4826

129th Assembly District

Magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us

JUNE WAS A MONTH FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

"As our country evolves and strives for a 'more perfect union', we have just witnessed three profound and historical events that have moved our nation to more closely reflect the words of the Preamble to the U.S. Declaration of Independence. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."*

On June 25th, the Supreme Court's ruling that upheld the Affordable Care Act's (Obamacare) provision for federal subsidies when the state doesn't provide any, ensures an estimated 6.4 million people across 34 states will be able to keep their insurance premiums low and affordable. I believe that this ruling enables millions of our citizens the *'pursuit of Life'*, as what could be more precious and life affirming than healthcare for our children, families and our seniors.

On June 26th, the Supreme Court declared marriage equality is a constitutional right. I believe that this ruling represents the *'pursuit of Happiness'* and ensures that gay couples can no longer be treated like second-class citizens by the state in which they live. I'm proud our nation has finally embraced what so many have long held to be a basic human right: that no one will ever be denied their constitutional right to marry – whether they are gay or straight.

On June 17th, the horrific, senseless and premeditated massacre of 9 African-Americans took place in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina and took our collective breath away as a nation. In the face of this unspeakable horror, the families and parishioners of that community forgave the shooter and showed the power of love and unity over violence. Rightfully, the Governor of South Carolina called for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the Statehouse. The Confederate flag had become a symbol of hatred, bigotry and divisiveness, not the symbol of a progressive, compassionate and gracious South. On July 9th, South Carolina approved the removal of the flag, a landmark moment. I believe that *'the pursuit of Liberty'* is gained only when a nation fully embraces that all of its citizens are free and equal, and expresses this liberty not only in words and symbols, but demonstrates liberty in our actions and deeds.

June 2015 is most certainly a month for the history books and its events have swept in a season of change.

It is my hope that the events and decisions of June 2015, that affected all our citizens, will move us forward as a nation as we strive for a more perfect union in these United States of America."

Bill Magnarelli

GREATER SYRACUSE LAND BANK REACHES A MILESTONE

In 2011, Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and Senator David Valesky sponsored legislation creating land banks in New York. On Friday, June 26, the Greater Syracuse Land Bank sold its 150th property when Khaled Doka, an immigrant from South Sudan, bought the house at 4518 S. Salina St. City, county and state officials are celebrating that milestone in hopes that the 3-year-old land bank will continue to grow as a force against abandoned properties and blight.

The Land Bank has acquired 686 properties to date. Since 2012, the Land Bank has set out to take ownership of as many problem properties as the City of Syracuse can foreclose on in order to stabilize, assemble and market them for return to productive use. The Land Bank's willingness and ability to take over problem properties once foreclosed has allowed the City of Syracuse to get serious about property tax collection and collect a windfall of delinquent tax payments from owners avoiding foreclosure. Since November 2012 the City has collected an additional \$7.2 million in taxes and \$2.75 million for Onondaga County.

Assemblyman Magnarelli said, "There is no question that the Syracuse Land Bank is achieving its core mission of revitalizing our neighborhoods and repurposing previously abandoned properties."



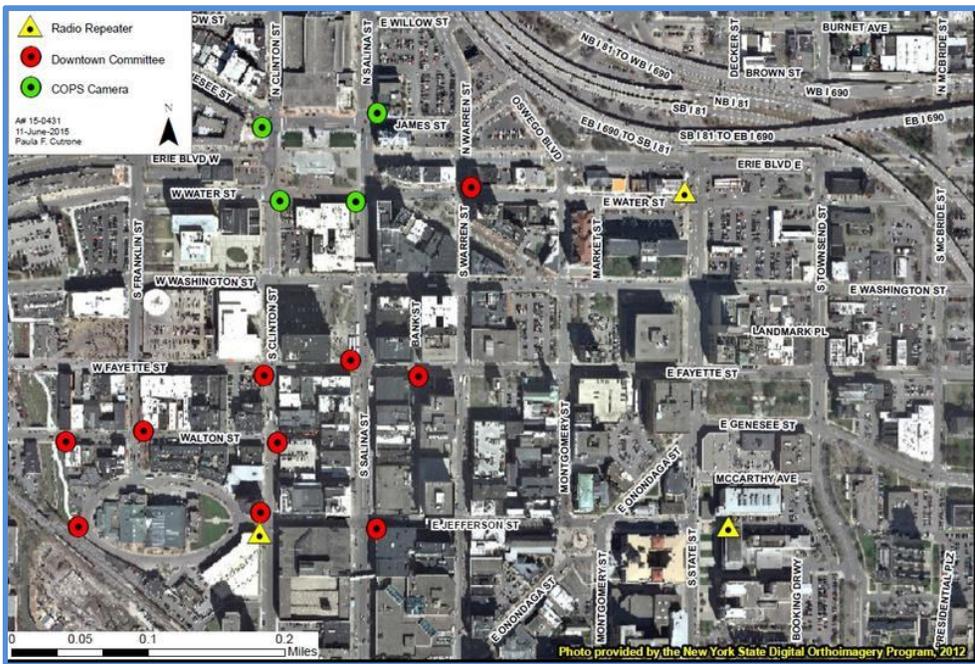
INSTALLATION OF 10 SECURITY CAMERAS DOWNTOWN

On July 1st, Assemblyman Magnarelli was joined by Merike Treier of the Downtown Committee, Jim Breuer, Downtown Committee Chair and President of Hueber-Breuer Corp, and Richard Sykes, President of the Armory Square Association in unveiling 10 downtown security cameras and their locations. The camera locations were selected in partnership with the Syracuse Police Department and are located in areas that experience high visitor traffic and burgeoning residential populations. Support for the cameras was provided in part by a \$78,868 grant secured by Assemblyman Magnarelli. The Downtown Committee will own the cameras and pay for maintenance to ensure their continued operation.



“We’re incredibly grateful to have the Assemblyman’s support in this program,” said Merike Treier, executive director of the Downtown Committee of Syracuse. “As Downtown continues to grow, we want to ensure we’re protecting the investments being made in the heart of our City and provide tools to supplement the existing security program. It’s very important to us that our residents, property owners and retailers continue to feel safe.”

With more than 3,200 residents and \$368 million invested in development, it is important that Downtown maintain its status as one of the safest neighborhoods in the City of Syracuse. A strong partnership between Downtown Committee security staff and the Syracuse Police Department allows for collaboration to address public safety and quality of life concerns. The installation of the security cameras is an extension of that partnership. The cameras will provide an additional tool to enhance the sense of safety, while also deterring crime. The security cameras will be wired into the existing camera network of the



Syracuse Police Department. Assemblyman Magnarelli said, “Our downtown has attracted many new residents due to the numerous residential apartments and condos being built within the last few years. As with any residential neighborhood, safety is the primary concern. Safety is also a primary focus of businesses and special events held in the downtown area. It is for these reasons that I secured funding for cameras in our downtown community. Not only in downtown, but throughout our neighborhoods, I am constantly asked to support the need for added security measures to give individuals and businesses and their customers peace of mind. These security cameras will add immeasurably to the quality of life in our downtown area.”

UPDATE ON THE FORMER ROTH STEEL SCRAPYARD

In my newsletter of last month, I wrote asking for your feedback on the sale of the former Roth Steel Scrapyard located on Hiawatha Blvd at the southern end of Onondaga Lake. Recent news articles reporting on the bankruptcy sale of this property to a potential buyer, who is also in the scrapyard business, prompted many individuals, including myself, to begin advocating for the clean-up of this site (which is known to contain many environmental pollutants) and advocating that any new owner clean up the site and assure that any new operation there be environmentally compatible with the revitalization of Onondaga Lake and its surrounding areas. I asked if any of you would make your voices heard in support of these efforts. Well, the feedback was overwhelmingly in support of mandating safe-guards that any new owner be responsible to remediate the property. Since my June newsletter I have contacted the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 7.

I received a letter from the EPA stating, “The New York State DEC is overseeing environmental investigations and interim measures to address contamination at the facility. The EPA has been in contact with the DEC and is currently reviewing information that it has received from them pertaining to contamination on the property. The EPA has also been in contact with the bankruptcy trustee and the new property owner, American Iron and Metal, seeking access to the property to perform an inspection. Once the EPA has reviewed the available information and has had an opportunity to inspect the facility, we will discuss with the DEC the environmental conditions at the site. The EPA will keep you informed about any developments related to the site.”

I have also spoken with Ken Lynch, the Regional Director of the EPA and he informs me that he believes the sale of this property is still being pursued; however, the DEC’s goal is to make sure that any environmental hazards are cleaned up by the new owners. I will continue to monitor this situation, since this property is a major link in continuing the positive re-development of Onondaga Lake, the Inner Harbor and the City’s Creekwalk.



NEW YORK STATE SUPPORT FOR THE HOTEL SYRACUSE PROVIDES THE FUNDING FOUNDATION

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, who was in Albany on Thursday, June 25th, finishing up legislative duties for the 2015 NYS Assembly session, couldn't attend the press conference announcing that the Hotel Syracuse restoration project would become a full-service Marriott Hotel. Assemblyman Magnarelli was pleased to see his work in securing state funds for the Hotel Syracuse re-development finally becoming a reality. "The state's total investment of \$20.6 million provides the foundation for the \$60 million Hotel project. The \$20.6 million is broken down into three \$5 million grants, each provided by the Assembly, the Senate and the Governor; a \$3.45 million grant provided through the Regional Economic Development Council; and an additional \$1.7 million provided by a grant from Assemblyman Magnarelli.

Assemblyman Magnarelli praised the leadership, fortitude and passion of Ed Riley, the Hotel Syracuse developer, along with M&T Bank, a local lender, who knew the value of this landmark hotel and what its resurrection meant to the community. The Assemblyman has scheduled a preliminary tour of the "Grand Lady" and just smiles with appreciation of the memories of long-ago and the future memories that are yet to be made at the Hotel Syracuse.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL JOINS TRINITY HEALTH

On July 1st, Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the announcement that St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center officially became a member of one of the largest Catholic health care delivery systems in the country. St. Joe's Hospital has joined Trinity Health, a nonprofit organization that operates 86 hospitals, 115 continuing care facilities and home health and hospice programs in 21 states. Kathy Ruscitto, president and CEO of St. Joe's said with Trinity, St. Joseph's now has a partner that possesses the size, purchasing power and expertise in clinical and administrative practices that are needed to survive in the changing health care world. St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Joseph's Health have 5,300 employees and had \$641.7 million in revenue in 2014. Trinity health will now take over administration duties. However, there are no changes planned in the hospital's leadership or its board of directors, according to Dr. Richard Gilfillan, president and CEO of Trinity Health.



Memorial Bricks at Cecile Center

The Bob Cecile Community Center Memorial Plaza was formally dedicated last month. The plaza, located adjacent to the flagpole has custom-engraved bricks that commemorate the past, enhance the present or inspire the future. The ceremony recognized those who have placed engraved bricks as a remembrance, tribute or memorial.



Save the Date:

Tuesday, Sept. 22
at DestinyUSA

Saturday, Nov. 7

At NYS Fairgrounds
Parade at Noon

Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.cnyveteransparade.org



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For more information on any of these events, email abdellad@assemblystate.ny.us

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood and Valley areas of the City of Syracuse, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. During his previous six terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.