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Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 3:06 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@saratogacountyny.gov>

Subject: Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership

I am writing to strongly encourage the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors to fund the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership at the requested level of \$450,000 for the 2021 budget year.

The Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership leads a host of critical economic and workforce development initiatives across the public and private sectors, driving economic success for residents, businesses and government in Saratoga County, New York. The Saratoga Partnership supports business retention and expansion and works to provide a seamless delivery of programs and services for businesses seeking to grow, and spearheads semiconductor industry marketing and attraction, global trade assistance, community economic development, and data collection and planning.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saratoga Partnership provided critical guidance and services to hundreds of small Main Street businesses throughout Saratoga County. This included navigating federal, state, and local regulations; accessing federal and state relief programs including the PPP and EIDL programs; accessing personal protection equipment; and collaborating with local chambers of commerce, local governments, and not-for-profits, to ensure a seamless delivery of business services.

In the time where our community needs economic development the most (high unemployment, loss of small businesses, economic uncertainty), the county should support the economic development initiatives that the Saratoga Partnership is undertaking, including;

- Next Wave Communities initiative which has resulted in direct investment and development attention to Ballston Spa; as well as ongoing plans in Malta, Galway, and the Northern Towns of Saratoga County.
- Workforce development projects including a childcare feasibility study, CDL training center, and promoting digital literacy and coding training for adults.
- Updated market and site analysis of LFTC to capitalize on onshoring of investment prompted by the CHIPS for America Act
- Representing Saratoga County on the National, State, Regional, and local levels including the New York State's Regional Economic Development Council's (ESD) Business Development Workgroup, Albany Airport Master Plan's Regional Advisory Committee, and Saratoga Hospitals Communities of Excellence Committee.

Since we are now in the second wave of COVID-19, economic development services are needed now more than ever. A consistent funding stream from Saratoga County will ensure that these services can be delivered, and also allow the Saratoga Partnership to leverage that funding with grants from federal and state agencies and private utilities that serve Saratoga County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and commitment to economic development in Saratoga County.

Sincerely

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