

Re: follow up

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Mandell, Daniel  
Tue 9/27/2016 6:42 PM

Mark as unread

To: Krusen, Michael;

Mike,

Sounds good and will do.

Thanks again,  
Dan

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2016, at 6:18 PM, Krusen, Michael <[MKrusen@co.chemung.ny.us](mailto:MKrusen@co.chemung.ny.us)> wrote:

Dan: Glad it works. Let me know if you need anything else. Talk soon.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Mandell, Daniel" <[djmandell@cityofelmira.net](mailto:djmandell@cityofelmira.net)>  
Date: 9/27/16 5:32 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Krusen, Michael" <[MKrusen@co.chemung.ny.us](mailto:MKrusen@co.chemung.ny.us)>  
Subject: Re: follow up

Mike,

I like it. This is exactly what I want to say. It is a clear message that the City working with the County and with financial support from the State, can work it's way out of the current financial difficulties.

Thanks  
Dan

Re: follow up

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Mandell, Daniel  
Tue 9/27/2016 5:32 PM

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To: Krusen, Michael;

You replied on 9/27/2016 6:18 PM.

Mike,

I like it. This is exactly what I want to say. It is a clear message that the City working with the County and with financial support from the State, can work it's way out of the current financial difficulties.

Thanks  
Dan

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2016, at 2:47 PM, Krusen, Michael <[MKrusen@co.chemung.ny.us](mailto:MKrusen@co.chemung.ny.us)> wrote:

Dan:

Took the liberty of putting together some thoughts for your upcoming press conference. I believe it captures the feelings you have expressed and direction you would like to take...let me know what you think and if you want changes.

<speech mandell.docx>

Good \_\_\_\_\_. I wanted to thank our business and community leaders for attending today's important announcement.

One year ago when I was running for Mayor I heard loud and clear from Elmira residents they wanted change. The old model of higher taxes and declining services was unacceptable.

A combined tax rate of \$57 per thousand in the City of Elmira has strangled growth, driven business away and crippled home ownership. Although the reasons for high taxes are complex, the answer is not – we must change this model or we will not survive as a community.

Today I am announcing a series of resolutions that I will present to City Council that will provide a path forward:

- 1. We must immediately conclude the merger of the City and County financial services offices. This will set the stage for additional service sharing opportunities and will ensure all NYS budgeted incentive money is received.**

- 2. We must engage the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) to perform a complete financial review of City operations. This will include a 10 year look back and five years of projections. At the conclusion of their work CGR will present their findings to City Council, City bargaining units and the general public. This work will serve as the foundation for the following series of action steps that will provide City Council with a road map for the next several years.**
- 3. We will use CGR's report to develop City Council resolutions for a comprehensive work plan to start a full merger of City and County service operations. This will include initiating a public safety study to determine how our important police services can be maintained and improved by working together.**
- 4. Lastly, we must use CGR's report to approach New York State for transitional financial assistance to meet City obligations during the next five-year period. I was pleased that the Governor pledged his support to be bold with us. But his offer of**

**assistance is not a blank check it must be met with the give and take that is necessary to fix this broken model.**

In closing I would offer this to those that love this community but resist change – this is neither a loss of identity or control – in fact I would say what control do we have now as our finances deteriorate beyond repair and worse yet what identity does a City have that cannot meet its obligations.

The table has been set for a tremendous revitalization in Elmira. Elmira is the winner of a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The Elmira Corning Regional Airport is the winner of a \$40 million Upstate New York airport revitalization grant and our region is the winner of the \$500 million Upstate Revitalization Initiative. Many pieces of our community renewal puzzle are in place but perhaps the most important piece is this plan that City Council will address over the next two weeks.

Thank you. I appreciate your support and hope you will join me in this important endeavor.