

New York Conference of Mayor's Recognizes Batavia for Capital Planning

Batavia, NY – May 5, 2015 – On Sunday May 3rd, the New York Conference of Mayor's (NYCOM) recognized the City of Batavia with a Local Government Achievement Award for its Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal and Rate Plan that was developed and adopted by City Council this past March. Batavia was one of four cities and three villages within New York State to receive awards from NYCOM that demonstrate a significant and innovative project that has improved the quality of life within a community or demonstrates shared services and increasing government efficiency.

Cities and villages across New York are confronted by assets that are deteriorating due to environmental conditions and normal wear and tear. Without proper maintenance and ongoing capital reinvestment, increased failure rates and declining levels of service (e.g., wastewater backups, water service interruptions) will inevitably result. Many communities, particularly in Western and Central New York, have also seen a considerable reduction in water consumption during recent years. Unfortunately, this trend results in diminished revenues and puts pressure on water and wastewater rates.

The City of Batavia developed an Infrastructure Renewal and Rate Plan that identifies the City's water and wastewater capital needs and associated revenue requirements going forward. Moreover, the Plan responsibly addresses the capital reinvestment requirements of both systems in a manageable and affordable manner.

“Having NYCOM recognize Batavia for our proactive capital planning is an honor and a privilege. We have worked hard to ensure we provide quality services to our residents through cost effective means,” said Brooks Hawley, City Council President. “Having our peers from across the State recognize us for our effort is reassuring that what we are doing in Batavia is right.”

The City Council adopted the proposed Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal and Rate Plan with this year's budget. The Plan calls for \$22 million of capital improvements to the City's water and wastewater plants and systems while projecting an additional per user cost of \$1 a month.

About the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM):

NYCOM's mission is the same today as it was when it was founded in 1910. At the beginning of the 20th century, "state municipal leagues" began to form to give general support to municipal officials in each state, serving as a way to improve local government by facilitating cooperation, the exchange of information, ideas on best practices, and the discussion of new solutions to common municipal problems.

Then, as now, NYCOM's mission is to serve as a powerful advocate for city and village governments and their taxpayers before the state's Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government; a readily accessible source of practical information touching upon every area of municipal activity; and the preeminent provider of training for local government officials. Through membership in NYCOM, New York's cities and villages are better able to provide essential services in the most cost effective manner.