



## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007 COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR'S PLANS FOR MIDTOWN PLAZA

(Rochester, New York) —City Council voted tonight to approve Mayor Robert J. Duffy's relocation and redevelopment plans for Midtown Plaza. The Mayor highlighted ongoing collaboration with the Empire State Development Corporation and PAETEC as critical to moving the project forward.

"I'm excited to see the progress of this development," said Mayor Duffy. "I'm grateful for the teamwork of our partners at the Empire State Development Corporation, PAETEC and on City Council and I look forward to continuing to work with them as we rebuild Midtown." "This is an important step toward advancing Governor Spitzer's upstate economic development agenda for the major metropolitan areas," stated Upstate Empire State Development Chairman Daniel C. Gundersen. "With today's actions, the State and City are moving forward on an unprecedented partnership with PAETEC Communications to bring 600 new jobs to the region and redevelop this critical downtown site. Upstate ESD continues to work with local leaders and is pleased that our collaborative efforts are getting the job done."

"We are pleased with the progress being made with the Midtown properties by the City, State and other parties," said Arunas A. Chesonis, chairman and CEO of PAETEC. "We look forward to hearing community input regarding the design and functionality of our future headquarters."

Important highlights included in the legislation:

- Authorizes the purchase of Midtown by negotiation or condemnation.
- Establishes a \$225,100 contract with Flaum Management Inc. of Rochester and R.K. Hite & Co. of Avon for relocation planning and advisory services.
- Requests a \$25,000 appraisal contract with Bruckner, Tillett, Rossi, Cahill & Associates of Rochester.
- Authorizes an agreement with the Empire State Development Corporation for receipt and use of a \$750,000 grant for master planning for the Midtown area.

• Requests a \$3 million loan from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and a \$2 million Brownfield Economic Development Initiative grant to help with acquisition and relocation services.

The City will hire a development consultant by late January 2008 to assist with the development planning and environmental impact statement for the entire site. The consultant team's scope of work will include compiling public input on the project. The City plans to dedicate an area on its homepage (<a href="www.cityofrochester.gov">www.cityofrochester.gov</a>) to Midtown development in the near future -- to keep the community informed, answer questions and welcome suggestions about the future of downtown Rochester.