

Observer-Dispatch “The Next Step” Action Items

Arts & Entertainment

1. Clearly define and promote into the community the range of events and cultural institutions. (11/16)
2. Provide the area with a nightspot for those under 21. (11/16)
3. Open a dance club. (11/16)
4. Consolidate all the nightspots into one destination site. (11/16)
5. Encourage friends to take advantage of other after-work activities, such as wine tasting or movies at the Stanly Theater. (11/16)
6. Owners of entertainment venues should provide e-mail distribution of what’s going on and when. (11/16)
7. Beef up security at places that may have the perception of being unsafe. (11/16)

Economic Development

8. Focus on building small businesses. (11/13)
9. Highlight the region’s often-overlooked strength’s, such as an educated workforce. (11/13)
10. Lower county property and sales taxes to increase the payroll and buying power of companies. (11/14)
11. Maintain roads, sewers and fiber-optic networks. (11/14)
12. Increase marketing of the Mohawk Valley workforce and business opportunities. (11/14)
13. Build high-tech opportunities. (11/14)
14. Attract research-oriented businesses that will not be affected by high utility rates. (11/18)
15. Rank economic development as the primary goal in any future vision. (11/18)
16. Use public investment to pave the way for significant private investment. (11/18)
17. Support small businesses to help create jobs and restore neighborhoods. (11/18)
18. Aggressively target middle-market companies with high potential for expansion. (11/18)
19. Support existing industries. (11/18)
20. Promote small business creation by professionals laid off form larger companies (11/18)
21. Offer tax breaks to help existing companies grow. (11/18)

Education & Workforce Training

22. Encourage open discussion between officials, residents, students and business owners. (11/13)
23. Create partnerships between local colleges and industries to develop initiatives to keep graduates in the area. (11/13)

Quality of Communities

24. Clean up and revitalize neighborhoods, businesses and overall downtown facades. (11/13)
25. Promote the positive instead of the negative. (11/13)
26. Preserve architecture by enacting a moratorium on demolishing old, vacant buildings. (11/13)
27. Recreate a vibrant downtown Utica as the region’s hub. (11/13)
28. Increase the use of foot patrol, canine units and general police presence. (11/13)
29. Continue enforcement and prosecution of sex offenders. (11/15)
30. Toughen enforcement for drug crimes. (11/15)
31. Take advantage of the old architecture that makes the downtowns so unique. (11/15)
32. Promote new uses for urban properties. (11/15)
33. Create new partnerships between the cities and key local institutions such as colleges. (11/15)
34. Ask the county and other suburbs to contribute to the support of downtowns. (11/15)
35. Institute a mixed-use program by renovating the top floors of existing city buildings into livable lots. (11/16)
36. Keep key communities strong by promoting downtowns and job-growth opportunities. (11/18)
37. Create state historic tax credits to revive downtowns. (11/18)
38. Create urban loft housing and a vibrant arts and entertainment district. (11/18)
39. Embrace the unique aspects and districts of the city and encourage development around them. (11/18)
40. Make the region more attractive to the “creative class” of young, well-educated people capable of starting businesses and who have expectations of a vibrant, tolerant community in which to live. (11/18)

Regional Consolidation

41. Create intermunicipal sharing of departments, cooperation for services, and sales tax distribution. (11/15)
42. Study models in other states where rationalization has worked. (11/17)
43. Form incentives encouraging local governments to explore consolidation. (11/17)
44. Provide assurances that services will be kept at an acceptable level and costs can be reduced. (11/17)
45. Draw up a Mohawk Valley Compact to coordinate growth and put Oneida County government in charge (11/17)

Technology

Tourism

46. Stress the region’s long role in shaping America’s destiny. (11/13)

Vision

47. Create community-lawmaker-business teams to brainstorm ideas for the area. (11/13)
48. Establish long-term and short-term plans, including financial planning and focused marketing. (11/13)
49. Define common goals between the downtowns and surrounding areas. (11/15)
50. Emphasize the strengths of the region, such as the change of seasons, arts institutions or the array of entertainment options. (11/16)
51. Create private-sector guidance and leadership to work with the public sector and bring about desired results. (11/17)
52. Create a plan that both the public and private sector can rally around for the long term. (11/18)
53. Create a vision that everyone buys into over the long term. (11/18)
54. Conduct region-wide focus group sessions to gain consensus and more clearly define the area’s vision for the future. (11/18)