



**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE
CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS**

**MICHELE MADIGAN
COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE**

TO: Mayor Joanne Yepsen
Commissioner Anthony Scirocco
Commissioner Chris Mathiesen
Commissioner John Franck

CC: Deputies
Director Christine Gillmett-Brown
IT Systems Manager Kevin Kling

FROM: Commissioner Michele Madigan

DATE: September 10, 2015

RE: Next Century Cities

At the September 15, 2015 City Council Meeting I will be introducing the Council to “Next Century Cities”, a public interest initiative (non-profit) that supports cities and leaders as they seek to ensure that all have access to affordable, reliable, fast internet. Next Century Cities provides the following to its member cities:

- It elevates the conversation locally and nationally - facilitating speaking opportunities, op eds, coverage of milestones and stories, facilitate conversations with DC politicians and FCC Commissioners - giving leaders the opportunity to stand together on issues of importance.
- It supports cities by connecting folks from one city to another who may be doing similar work - giving all members the benefit of the experience of those who have gone before - topics include such issues as marketing, funding, dig once, telling the story, etc. We have events, monthly calls on topics of importance, regular updates and opportunities to learn and share.
- It equips cities with toolkits, best practices, sample RFIs and policies - curating and creating good content so our cities do not have to do all the research on their own.

There is no cost to join. An elected City official must simply send an email stating that they want to join and that they agree to the “six shared principles”. These are attached, along with a description of Next Century Cities and its current membership. I will be asking the Council to vote to agree to these principles on Tuesday evening.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is an exciting initiative and I look forward to adding the City of Saratoga Springs to the Next Century Cities membership list.