



## Media Release

# Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## Legislature to Re-Authorize Democratic Downtown Economic Development Program

**Rochester, New York – March 12, 2007:** Monroe County Legislator **Steve Eckel** (D-Rochester) is calling on the County Legislature to re-authorize the Residential-Commercial Urban Tax Exemption (RESCUE) program which is due to sunset this year. The RESCUE program encourages the conversion of underutilized office, retail, manufacturing and warehouse buildings to mixed residential-commercial uses in downtown areas of Upstate cities. Properties that are converted from non-residential to mixed residential-commercial use can receive partial exemptions from property taxes and special *ad valorem* levies for up to twelve years.

“Vacant office space continues to be a challenge for downtown Rochester.” said Legislator Eckel. “What better way to remedy this situation than to reauthorize the RESCUE program, which has brought millions of dollars in private investment and over 100 market rate housing units into downtown Rochester?”

To qualify for the exemptions, a property must be located within the Center City District; owners must invest at least \$250,000 in converting the property and must provide a minimum of 25% of the total developed space for residential purposes. Since its inception in 2004, several impressive projects have participated in RESCUE, including Buckingham Commons, Halo Lofts, the Medical Arts Building, the Harry Forman Building, the Parry Building, State Street Lofts and 96 Liberty Pole Way.

**Copy of Proposal Attached.**

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