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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KIMATIAN PROPOSES DEPARTMENT
OF NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY

OCTOBER 8, 2009, SYRACUSE, NY --- Syracuse mayoral candidate and business executive Steve Kimatian today proposed a reorganization of city departments with the creation of a Department of Neighborhood Advocacy (DNA), emphasizing that the city needs to provide a more effective management structure to better serve neighborhoods and become “proactive, rather than reactive” when dealing with neighborhood issues.

Kimatian’s Department of Neighborhood Advocacy (DNA) will consist of a Commissioner – reporting directly to the Mayor – and a team of Neighborhood Advocates, each of whom will have direct responsibility for addressing problems in the specific neighborhoods to which they are assigned. Neighborhood Advocates will work directly with current neighborhood organizations, engaging residents and addressing concerns.

“We have many people working very hard for their neighborhoods,” said Kimatian. “The City has to do a better job of providing them with needed tools to accomplish their goals and enable direct access to the mayor.

Kimatian said the idea of DNA comes out of his grassroots, neighborhood-based campaign, attending neighborhood meetings and assessing the present organizational structure. Drawing on his management experience, Kimatian said, “My plan is to reinvent, retool, and refresh the current way City Hall addresses neighborhood-based issues and challenges.”

“My administration’s Neighborhood Advocates will live in the same neighborhoods they represent.” Kimatian explained. “The Advocates will be charged with the responsibility of proactively dealing with neighborhood issues and solving small problems before they become big ones and ensure that no neighborhood is left behind. They will be part of the neighborhood for which they advocate, and they will get things done.”

“You may notice that the Department of Neighborhood Advocacy’s acronym is DNA,” Kimatian told a morning news conference at McChesney Park on the city’s Northside. “This is appropriate because I believe that our neighborhoods are the DNA of our city.”

“I want our Neighborhood Advocates to be in their assigned communities every day, talking to residents and making sure their problems get resolved,” Kimatian added. “In my administration, we won’t wait to get a phone call from a citizen to take action --- we’ll know what the needs are before it gets to that stage.”