

# Dyster's Refugee Plan



# NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS FAIR

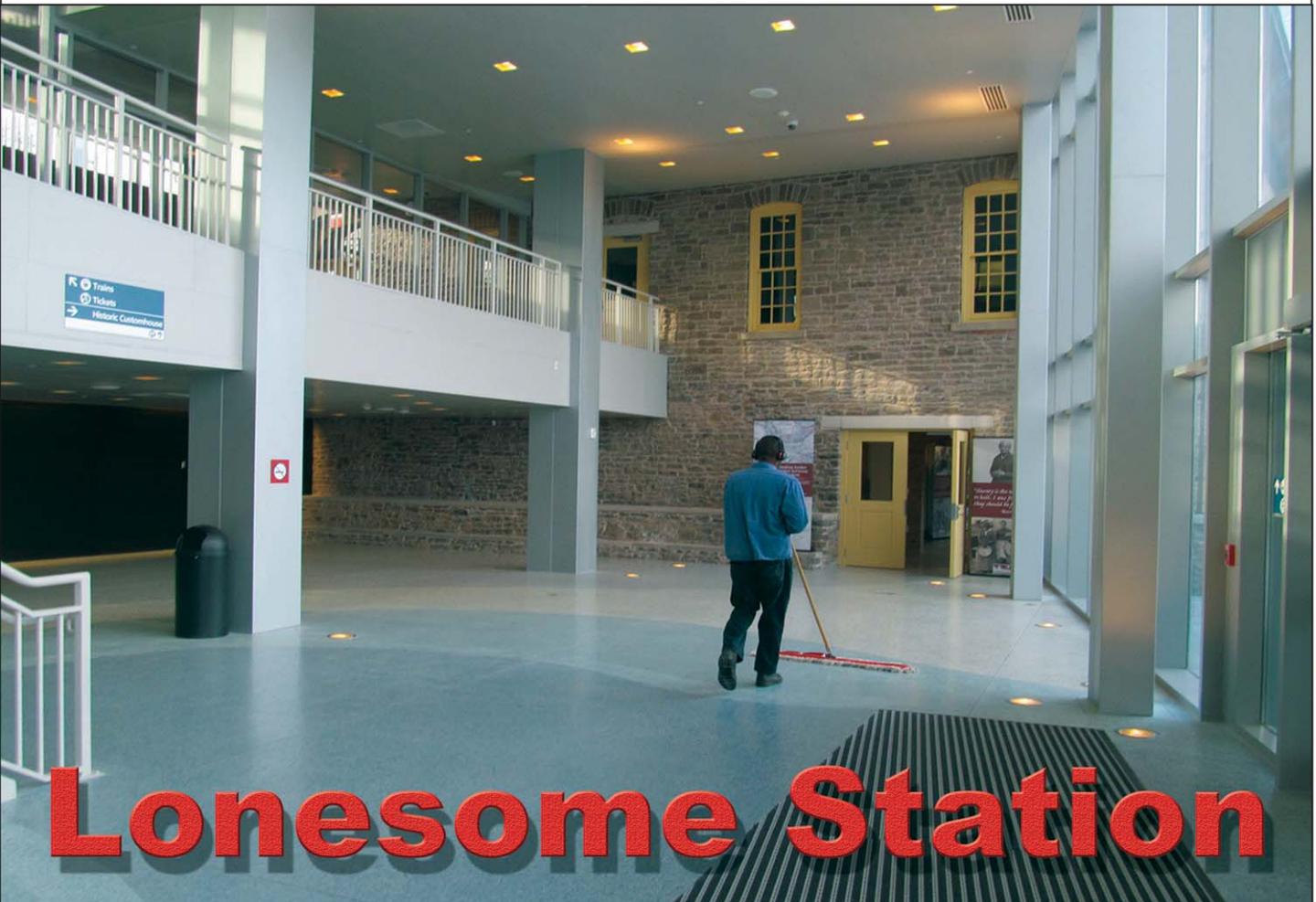
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VOL. 17, NO. 49

FREE

## Mammoth Dyster train depot is deserted



# Lonesome Station

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# Never a Wait in line at new Niagara Falls Amtrak station

**James Hufnagel**

Yesterday at 10 am, a mere 24 hours after the politicians and local media welcomed the first Amtrak train to the new Niagara Falls International Train Station, Intermodal Transportation Center and Customhouse Interpretive Center ("NFITSITCCIC"), we dropped in to snap some photos. The morning after, so to speak.

First impression is that the building is huge, with very high, cathedral-like ceilings. It's going to cost a fortune to heat. The new train station is reminiscent of

the Wintergarden, that used to span Old Falls Street next to the defunct Rainbow Center Mall. One of the reasons given for razing the Wintergarden was that it cost too much to heat the place.

As we previously examined in the pages of the Reporter, Amtrak classifies stations as follows: large (>400,000 riders a year), medium (100,000 to 400,00 a year), caretaker (20,000 to 100,000) and shelter (<20,000).

By definition, an Amtrak "shelter" typically consists of a platform, a bench or two with a canopy overhead, lacking any amenities whatsoever, in the middle of a rural village or cornfield.

According to Amtrak published figures, Niagara Falls had a 2015 ridership of 31,354, down from 32,598 in 2014. That would put it at the lower end of the "caretaker" category. If 10,000 or so fewer passengers were to board or disembark the train here, the Niagara Falls train station could be rated a "shelter".

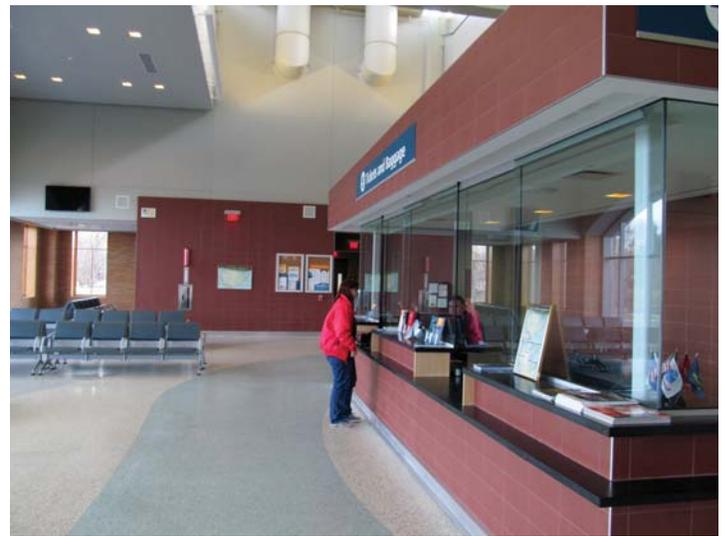
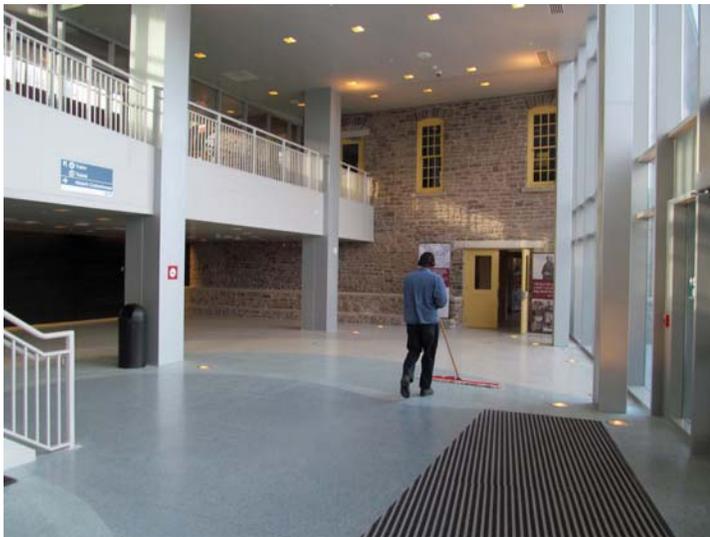
In fact, an optimistic Tom DeSantis, the City Planner, once hopefully stated that ridership may one day top out at 50,000, which is still 50,000 short of the next station grade up.

A Caretaker station such as the new Niagara Falls Intermodal Center is not required by Amtrak to have any of the

following features: parking, taxi access, transit or bus access, restrooms or a drinking fountain, any kind of ticketing (agents or automated), passenger information staff or display, security including local police camera surveillance, vending or retail, all of which are, or are planned to be, elements of the new facility. Not to mention, it doesn't have to be a \$43 million behemoth of a structure.

\$43 million is about half of the city of Niagara Falls' annual budget.

Think of the taxes that could've been lowered, the police and firefighters hired, the streets paved and the water bills reduced.



"Hello, I'd like to buy a fish license please, for my pet fish, Eric."

With an average 85 riders a day, you could probably follow and sweep up behind each and every one as they come and go.

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The brooms and dustpan neatly arrayed at the top of the stairs. Must be break time.



10:10 am - two guys track in more dirt.



Two city trucks parked outside the train station, with motors idling. Over the years, maintenance and security will probably turn out to be very costly.

## Birth Announcement



Sahana Bhargava

Proud parents Vik and Naveet Bhargava joyfully announce the birth of a daughter, Sahana Bhargava, and have informed their friends that "Sahana looks forward to being a part of your world, and we look forward to you enriching her life!"

Her father, Vik Bhargava, in addition to his varied business pursuits, and frequent work as a professional singer, is a well known and leading authority on the history of the British musical act called the Beatles.

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# Dyster may open floodgates for refugee welfare recipients, but will aid poverty industry immensely

## Mike Hudson

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster plan to aid in the resettlement efforts for up to 50 refugee families from the Middle East to the city will begin in earnest next year.

"We have a very diverse community to start with and we just want to make certain people who come to Niagara Falls from wherever are given the opportunity to have the most positive experience," said Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster.

Pointing to the Italian, Irish, Jewish and Polish heritage of the city, Dyster said immigration has always been crucial to the success of Niagara Falls.

The mayor said he is "partnering" to bring the refugees here with a not for profit organization called Jewish Family Services.

"One of the advantages (of working with Jewish Family Services) is this is going to give us a better database to understand who's here, who's working and what kind of [taxpayer] assistance they will need," said Dyster.

As for taxpayer assistance, the generous Dyster is too polite to mention that with 50 new families, it is likely there will be 50 new Medicaid families for county taxpayers to pay for – at a cost to exceed \$1 million per year.



How many of the newcomers will get welfare, food stamps, public assistance for housing, aid for utilities and other benefits is

hard to say, but it is a fair bet that these refugees have never lived in a place where you make more money if you don't work than you would if you work.

Although Dyster points to the Italian, Irish, Jewish and Polish heritage that came here in the 20th century, he is far too polite to mention that those immigrants came without the expectation that they could live here at other people's expense.

But that has changed. Not only are the new immigrants going to get taxpayer funded benefits, the 'brown skinned' refugees are the new 'green' of the poverty industry, as the expression goes.

Don't think for a second that nobody wants these poor refugees.

The dirty little secret of the 'not for profits' who 'help' refugees is that they earn a large slice of their annual budgets (allowing hefty salary increases for directors and employees) by getting immigrants located in their communities and put on public subsidies.

The not for profits actually compete with not for profits in other cities to get refugees so they can get paid to set them up with taxpayer benefits.

One of the lures for the quest for refugees is the amount of taxpayer benefits and the support of local politicians in welcoming refugees to their community.

After all, not every city wants refugees. Some mayors are more concerned about taxpayers.

Happily, Mayor Dyster is concerned about taking care of the poor people who make their living taking care of the poor. That may be why his city is the highest taxed in New York State.

In any event, the refugees are a prize. Handled first by not for profit agencies who make a profit off deciding which city the refugees will go and which not for profit in that city gets to make a profit handling the bene-

fits for the refugees.

The refugees are profitable wherever they go.

This is the American poverty industry where not for profits pay no taxes while making a profit by bringing in tax consumers to burden taxpayers. They don't call it the poverty 'industry' for nothing.

And one of the most lucrative phases of the industry is the burgeoning immigrant-to-welfare industry.

There are many facets to this diamond of attracting refugees.

Dyster's biggest cheerleader on the City Council, Kristen Grandinetti, said she is more concerned about whether the refugees will find comfortable taxpayer funded "affordable" housing once they get here.

Much lies behind that seemingly altruistic statement.

She said the city should work to ensure that refugees are not "taken advantage of by the slumlords, who are currently taking advantage of our own population," Grandinetti cautioned. "That's my biggest concern," she said.

This comports well with the Dyster administration's efforts to encourage and subsidize (taxpayer funded), developer driven 'affordable housing' projects such as South Junior High School and Horizons – at the site of abandoned school buildings.

The dirty little secret of the 'affordable housing' part of the poverty industry is that developers get rich building cheaply built poverty housing.

Most subsidized 'affordable housing' projects get built not because of the need but because developers make a fortune on them.

And when they attract the cream of subsidized tenants and the modest, but better built doubles and single family homes wind up empty, neglected and ultimately demolished, the city becomes poorer for it.

This cockeyed reverse supply and de-

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mand building of 'affordable housing' at costs to taxpayers of \$300,000 to \$400,000 per unit when none are needed – is destructive on every level.

But big money in the poverty industry attracts developers who structure their deals so that they make millions up front before they even start construction.

The poverty developers need only one thing to complete their profits –poverty tenants. There is a constant need for more poor people.

The fight to secure poverty clients is getting tougher as more people got into the lucrative poverty industry under the poverty friendly administrations of Barack Obama and Andrew Cuomo.

In Niagara Falls, thanks in large part to Mayor Paul Dyster – who is always eager to lend a helping hand to the poor developers for the poor, the poverty industry is the pre-eminent one in Niagara Falls.

The refugees will come to Niagara Falls - but not as the Irish, Italian or Polish who had to work hard to make it on their own – but as valuable clients of the booming poverty industry.

It is fair to say that the refugees will be encouraged to get subsidized Section 8 housing, food stamps – now issued with a credit card-like electronic benefits transfer card –

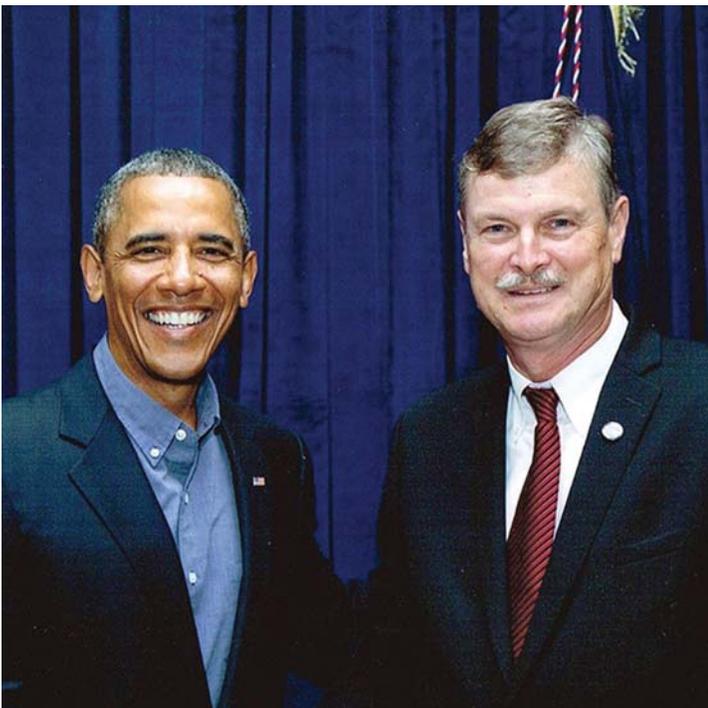
direct welfare payments, free medical care and all the other bells and whistles that go along with being on the bum in Western New York.

Fifty families relocating here will easily cost taxpayers several millions each and every year.

Some call it success. While most of the city has fallen under Dyster's nine-year tenure as mayor, he can take credit for the growth of the poverty industry and the enrichment of those who earn their living by being responsible for attracting and enabling people who cannot care for or feed themselves.

While thousands of hard working, tax paying citizens have fled Niagara Falls to points south and west, Dyster's liberal social services policies have managed to attract generational welfare recipients, ex-convicts and sexual predators to replace them.

And now 50 refugee families. Once policies are put in place; the affordable housing developers set up to profit, and the not for profits lined up - each with their helping hand out - for their share of hand outs, Dyster can fight to get more refugees into the city for the enablers of poverty to flourish.



Paul Dyster with his idol Barack Obama.

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## Parlato's Legacy Is There for All to See in Niagara Falls



Frank Parlato on the rooftop of One Niagara.

### Tony Farina

The One Niagara Welcome Center is located at 360 Rainbow Blvd. within earshot of mighty Niagara Falls and stands nine-stories tall, a can't miss landmark that serves, according to its website, as a tourism and sightseeing haven offering bus tours, guided exploration, historical presentations, dining and souvenirs.

The bustling tourist center is one of downtown Niagara Falls' bright spots, especially during the Memorial Day - Labor Day tourist season, but it wasn't always that way.

Not too many years ago, in 2004, the onetime Occidental Chemical Corp.'s namesake building, built in the early 1980s, was a shell of its former grandeur, left to deteriorate by Occidental with only a single tenant remaining, the federal Small Business Administra-



When Parlato came to Niagara Falls, the property had a 40 foot hole the size of three football fields, the sidewalks and the street were being undermined, the developer had run out of money and nobody wanted to tackle the project.

tion, which was about to leave at the expiration of its lease.

The landmark building next to the Rainbow Bridge was an eyesore, made even worse by a giant empty hole taking up the entire parcel along Rainbow Blvd. that according to the developers holding sway at the time was to become a giant fish tank to attract visitors from around the world to Niagara Falls. The fish tank hole never got any fish and the SBA was leaving, leaving an empty, broken down, giant eyesore behind. But then something happened.

I have been a newspaper and television reporter most of my life and along the way I have met many people. One of them was a real estate developer named Frank Parlato of Buffalo who I came to know while chasing down a story in the streets of the city I had prowled for more than 30 years.

Well, one thing led to another, and one day after a breakfast meeting in the spring of 2004 with Parlato and a businessman with knowledge of the developing eyesore in Niagara Falls, we visited the Occidental Building and I remarked to Parlato, "this is quite a place, given the tremendous view from the top and the location next to the mighty falls. Too bad it is falling apart. It would be a great location to make something happen."

Parlato felt the same way, and with his experience in real estate saw a business opportunity. With the Hong Kong owner running out of money, Parlato found a way to acquire the property and the rest is history. Without a dime of public money, he filled the giant hole and began to fix up the property, selling coffee and trinkets to start and bringing in a tour company to give visitors a guided tour of the historic places of Niagara Falls, starting with the mighty falls itself. That was just the beginning.

It took stamina and grit to get the hole filled, scotch tape and screwdrivers to get the building habitable, and some chalk to establish parking spots on the now covered hole. Piece by piece, opposed by city inspectors every step of the way, Parlato made something out of nothing.

There were back tax issues to deal with, too, although Parlato contended the property had been overtaxed for years and he filed suit against the city and eventually, after he sold the property in 2010, the lawsuit he started was settled with the city and a large discount in taxes proved he was right all along.

The new owners, including Gordon Reger and Paul Grenga, are now doing quite well on the property that had not too long ago been headed to the scrap heap.

It is a success story that tells about the resourcefulness and commitment of Parlato when it comes to business, and he did it all the while fighting behind the scenes with an alleged representative of the former owner who, once the property had been turned around, was anxious to get more than his rightful legal share - as the 10 lawsuits against Parlato established. Parlato won all 10 lawsuits.

Parlato has moved on but his work is still there for everyone to see, a busy tourist destination visited by millions of people every year, even opening briefly every day over the winter months for those hardy enough to still go to the falls, from near and far.

Ashovel finally went into the ground recently at nearby 310 Rainbow Blvd. for the much-hyped Hamister business hotel that is being highly-subsidized by taxpayers, quite unlike what Parlato did at the decrepit Occidental Building without a penny of public money. No certain date when the Hamister Hotel

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Using common sense, Parlato abandoned the fanciful Aqua Falls aquarium project and started filling the hole.

fought and won – even placing a giant sign on his property in defiance of the State Park – with arrows right at the entrance - pointing one way to the State Parks' \$10 parking and an arrow pointing to his parking lot – at \$5.

Now Parlato is fighting the federal government, and much like the grit he showed in developing the falls property, he is refusing to admit he did anything wrong (take a plea) when he feels he did absolutely nothing wrong.

Last week I wrote that he may have been the victim of a "ham sandwich" indictment, the kind where prosecutors can make a case just because they want to, even though the evidence may not quite be what it seems to be. But what does a grand jury know? They can only consider what it presented to them, and Parlato's legal team believes they were misled by prosecutors.

That case is pending and a trial could be months--even years--away. The ordeal has been costly in financial terms, but while most people would be reduced to stress and fear at the enormous strain of having the most powerful government in the world train its sights on you, Parlato said this battle only makes him feel stronger, quoting his favorite saying, "If the whole world stands against you, sword in hand, will you still dare to do what you think is right?"

Parlato truly feels he has been falsely cast as a villain by malicious and per-

haps politically motivated prosecutors when all he did was develop a building, create lots of jobs, and make lots of people money, even one of his alleged victims, a now-deceased business partner, who never said he was defrauded.

How it will all end for Parlato remains to be seen. But the developer-turned-journalist is fighting back, in part with the pen, against what he feels is a concocted indictment.

In the meantime, as a journalist, he was able to open riverboat tours (Maid of the Mist) on the Canadian side, ending Jimmy Glynn's cross-border gold mine, and winning a bigger return from Glynn's Maid of the Mist boat tours to New York State taxpayers although Gov. Andrew Cuomo proceed-

(continued on next page)



If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?

will save downtown, but Parlato's Occidental Building makeover was a pretty good start.

Parlato now finds himself fighting a federal corruption indictment that was at least partially fueled by the disgruntled minority partner who couldn't win in court to siphon off the profits that Parlato had earned through hard work, sweat and dedication. I remember many nights when he worked around the clock to keep his project moving, providing more than one hundred jobs for many local people who might otherwise have gone hungry. And the bus

tour, restaurant and retail businesses boomed, providing profits for local business people, who Parlato favored over chains and franchises.

As he was building the businesses, he not only successfully fought his deceptive minority partner, but fought the city which tried to close the building repeatedly and choke the property with excessive taxation. He also had to fight the State Parks who clearly complained that his business was taking away their near monopoly parking revenue – they tried to prevent him from even placing signs on his own businesses. But he

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# Parlato developed Occidental Building site without public funding



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During the tourist season, the food court and the adjoining retail stores in the building are jammed with visitors from around the world, creating for the first time a large scale tourist center to compete with the monopoly businesses in the state park.



When Parlato came to Niagara Falls, the property had a 40 foot hole the size of three football fields, the sidewalks and the street were being undermined, the developer had run out of money and nobody wanted to tackle the project.



When Parlato came to Niagara Falls, the property had a 40 foot hole the size of three football fields, the sidewalks and the street were being undermined, the developer had run out of money and nobody wanted to tackle the project.

ed without public bidding to take care of Glynn. On the Canadian side, open bidding led to a \$300 million windfall for the Canadian parks.

From out of the blue, Parlato came to town and took Niagara Falls most ghastly eyesore – the going-nowhere Occidental Building with its giant 'Aqua Pit' at a time when the end was near. What an economic turnaround for many downtown businesses and what an opportunity for vendors and bus drivers to feed off the tourist business, clearly one of the best things Niagara Falls has to offer. Other than the tax free casino, Parlato's development was the largest seen in Niagara Falls in decades and the only one that was developed without a dime of taxpayer money.

Those who are making money there can thank Frank Parlato for sticking with it against all odds.

Someday people may also thank Frank Parlato for sticking it out against what he calls "a remarkably dishonest indictment" - and also against all odds – doing it his way and proving that the spirit of America is freedom and that freedom is created, nourished and

maintained only through the wondrous spirit of defiance from which this great country was created.



The world is ready to give up its secrets if we only know how to knock, how to give it the necessary blow. The strength and force of the blow come through concentration. -- Swami Vivekananda

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## Lisa Vitello to be named City Clerk as Former City Clerk may possess evidence of Hamister – Dyster fraud

### Frank Parlato

Mayor Paul Dyster, always eager to take care of his friends and supporters, will start the new year off taking care of his good friend Lisa Vitello who, a source says, will become the next city clerk.

Vitello will replace Carol Antonucci, who sources say does not want to retire.

Antonucci, who has 48 years of service with the clerk's office, makes \$30,000 per year in her technically 'part time' capacity.

But Antonucci works full time nonetheless and was said to be saddened that Dyster sought to remove her from her position.

By City Charter, Dyster needed the support of the city council to remove a city clerk and the council went along. Council member Charley Walker is said to have reluctantly agreed only after he wangled pay raises for two political allies of his – one in engineering and the other in the city clerk's office.

Both employees are technically in violation of their jobs since one flunked her civil service test and is holding her position provisionally and the other is without a drivers license – an actual requirement for the job she has.

But in Dyster's city hall this means nothing.

Trading salary boosts with Walker's friends in exchange for ousting a longtime and faithful public servant in order to appoint a friend of Dyster's at a nice fat increase in salary for the position has been the hallmark of both of these men's idea of public service.

Dyster will raise the clerk's salary for Vitello to \$48,000.

It is unknown exactly what credentials Vitello has that qualified her for the position. She has been a staunch Dyster supporter.

She is also the sister of City Court Judge Diane Vitello who was Dyster's first appointment when the mayor first took office in 2008.

Dyster set the stage for his audacious mendacity when, after campaigning on the "not hiring friends and family" platform, he chose Diane Vitello for city court judge among a large list of hopeful judicial candidates.

Vitello was married to Craig Touma, Dyster's campaign manager.

Despite her clearly political appointment, Judge Vitello went on to win election and is today widely seen as a worthy and erudite judge. Of course she had the benefit of access to the immense talents and legal skills of her mentor and colleague on the bench, Angelo Morinello, who retired last year and successfully ran for state assembly beating the incumbent John Ceretto.

Judge Vitello has shown compassion on the bench for the grinding poverty of the poor who come before her, while respecting the rights of their alleged victims and remarkably has demonstrated more than usual humility on the bench.

Which brings us to her sister.

Lisa Vitello has shown she is one of the more articulate thinkers participating in the public discourse of the city. She also wants a better job.

And we understand Dyster wants his friends in appointed positions.

Yet there seems a bit of underhanded irony in this.

Dyster moved to oust Antonucci, not for incompetence, but to bring in a supporter.

Perhaps Dyster is still resentful that Antonucci did not willingly participate in Dyster's fraudulent scheme to help developer Mark Hamister get



City Clerk Carol Antonucci has been asked to leave by Mayor Paul Dyster. She may have a hand in asking Dyster to leave too, as readers may soon see.

fraudulent funding.

Dyster asked Antonucci to use her clerk's seal in falsifying a contract with Hamister, making it appear to be on file with the city when it was not.

That the Hamister hotel scam will soon be or is already under investigation may be more than a matter of conjecture. More on that later in coming editions.

That Antonucci will be asked by Federal and State investigators why the Mayor asked her to falsify a document is just as likely whether Dyster fires her or not.

She was ordered to sign off on a false document. She is not culpable – although Dyster may blame her for not keeping it secret.

But Dyster was asking her to break the law.

In order that Hamister and Dyster could commit what looks like blatant bank and business fraud by pretending Hamister had an approved development deal on file with the city, when he did not, they needed to show the city clerk's seal on a bogus document.

In the days when US Attorney William Hochul protected the Dyster administration, probably nobody worried about small felonies.

But times have changed. A new US Attorney will be appointed soon.

Indeed Hamister, Dyster, Cuomo, Sam Hoyt and others knew full well that the Hamister deal was a fraud on the people and there was a conspiracy to double the price of the hotel to get more taxpayer subsidies from taxpayers.

Whether US Attorney Preet Bharara or NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman or both are looking into this likely fraud as part of their overall investigation into corruption inside the Cuomo administration is something that time will tell.

But one day, as Dyster was scrambling to get his friend Hamister a free hotel, as per orders of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, he asked an honest city clerk to falsely attest that a contract was on file with the city – when all they gave her was a blank signature page which they took away with them.

Antonucci knows this.

That the Niagara Falls Reporter found out about it – and Dyster may have blamed Antonucci – is not her fault. It was not she who told us.

One day perhaps soon, someone will be asking Antonucci about the fateful day – it may be FBI Special Agent Brian Burns – who has his eye on Niagara Falls corruption – about the day she was ordered to put her seal to a crooked up document and she protested.

And Dyster used the document nevertheless.

And now they will oust Antonucci and maybe the little Dyster chickens will all come to roost.

## Obama's Legacy?



J. Gary DiLaura  
The Right Side

I have news for Mr. Barack Hussein Obama, his legacy will be the exposure of the biggest fraud ever pulled on the American people and the world! His personal "black ops" squad will start selling their information to the "left wing red, commie, pinko" papers that were in the tank for him as soon as he is out of office. What "black ops", you ask? These are the pros who worked brilliantly to help hide his true identity, true motives, and true character. They masterfully crept into archives and changed documents that were on microfiche and buried for years. They did it without being discovered! The same corrupt press that refused to further investigate and report on the unbelievable discoveries that Sheriff Joe Arpaio uncovered, will turn on Obama like a mad dog can turn on his owner!

They recreated/obtained antique pica stamps that were long ago abandoned, made "date dies" that are no longer available and recreated records to show an American born, black, Christian, American citizen who isn't black but Egyptian, isn't Christian but Muslim, wasn't American born but "Kenyan" and who's life was financed by Saudi Arabia and George Soros!

Their loyalty will change for the money their stories are worth. Too bad the Republican Party didn't pick Obama's pros for the Watergate burglary like Obama's handlers did! Think how history would have changed, if Watergate was not a bungled burglary and Nixon never resigned.

Soon after the truth emerges, certain Federal Agencies will start piecing together the reasons for his irrational dismantling of

our military, reckless closing of coal power plants, outrageous spending, providing top flight fighting F-16 planes, tanks and arms to aid and abet our enemy and that will lead to criminal charges of Treason! When the proof emerges that the reason Obama and Clinton aborted the rescue mission to save Ambassador Stevens and the American Embassy in Benghazi, was to keep Stevens quiet about the munitions the two of them (Obama and Clinton) put into the hands of the Benghazi assassins, radical Islamic Muslims... America will call for their arrests, trials and the justice they deserve!

As far as the so called refugees that Obama insists we take and comfort are concerned, how do we vet them? In Syria, for example, there are no birth certificates, no social security cards, no marriage licenses, there's no freaking buildings, no food and no water. So how the hell do we vet 100,000 Syrian refugees? Interview them? Let's see... "Are you a terrorist?" "No"! Okay... this one is good...next!

Some people live in la la land. Just because we have hospitals and birth certificates and a Bureau of Vital Statistics and Record Bureau and buildings to house them here, don't assume Syria, Iraq and Sudan do as well. They have nothing! So how do we track a passport or drivers license in a war torn country? Get a grip.

Having conducted hundreds of investigations and seeing how difficult it is to verify a US citizen's ID here in America and seeing how easy it is to hide your true ID, forget trying to do the same on Syrian refugees.

If I were to conduct an investigation on Barack Obama, with the records on him that are available, as a candidate for a presidential appointment, and could not verify his date of birth, passport, college records and SSN, by original and proper records, he would NOT pass the background investigation!

I have conducted many such FBI background investigations, in my career!

If we can't even accurately vet the freaking President of the United States, don't even try to tell me you can vet some unknown, from unknown Sudan!

Morons, I swear!



# "Scenic" Parkway Detracts from Economy, Environment, Quality of Life

## James Hufnagel

Last March, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that a section of the north Robert Moses Parkway paralleling Whirlpool Street in the city will be removed, at a cost of \$42 million. Perhaps the most interesting line of his press release was the following: "The project will remove an underutilized two-mile segment of the parkway from Main Street to Findlay Drive."

If Cuomo deems the north Moses Parkway "underutilized" along its downtown stretch, what does that say about the rest of the parkway from Findlay Drive north?

State Department of Transportation traffic studies clearly show two bumps in usage of the north Parkway, both corresponding to rush hours. So let's get this straight: the economic, environmental and quality of life benefits that would accrue to the city of Niagara Falls from park-

way removal all the way to Devil's Hole, as identified in the \$140,000 Niagara Greenway-funded "Regional Economic Growth Through Ecological Restoration of the Niagara Gorge Rim" study by consultants EDR Companies of Syracuse, NY, have been set aside so that Lewiston can have its short cut into the city.

We ask again: if the section between Main and Findlay that connects directly with downtown is "underutilized", what would be different about the section from Findlay to Devil's Hole? Less than one of four vehicles traveling south on the Parkway get off at Findlay. Virtually no vehicles traveling north get off on Findlay unless their GPS is telling them that they took a wrong turn.

Nine of ten vehicles traveling between Lewiston and the city presently use Lewiston Road, according to state DOT studies. The fact is, the entire length of the parkway, from Niagara



Ancient pictographs on the closed lanes of the Niagara Scenic Parkway reveal that prehistoric cultures liked to run each other down with bicycles.

Falls to Youngstown, is underutilized when compared with any other road, highway or parkway of similar intended purpose.

In addition to the monied Lewiston interests that have managed to cheat the city of Niagara Falls out of enjoying easy access to a naturalized Niagara Gorge for the past half-century, certain DeVaux residents whipped up opposition to removal to Devil's Hole, conjuring images of schoolchildren being mowed down in the streets by hot rods which no longer have the parkway to speed on. Never mind that removing the parkway past Findlay would result in an average of one additional vehicle every two minutes on Lewiston Road, again, according to the DOT.

Back in the 1950's, when the population of the city topped out over 100,000, there no such thing as a Robert Moses Parkway. All traffic was on Lewiston Road, and nobody from DeVaux was complaining.

This summer, during one of his increasingly infrequent visits to the city of Niagara Falls, the governor also announced that the state was changing the name of the Robert Moses Parkway to the "Niagara Scenic Parkway".

Because if you're going to remove something, it's a good idea to first change its name to something appealing, then spend taxpayer money changing all the signage to reflect the new name.

While the state is still in the process of rubbing the name of Robert



Ugly graffiti at the top of the Niagara Gorge on the Moses Parkway south of Findlay Drive. How very scenic.



The "climbing wall" along the parkway. Why don't they just get a bulldozer and push this monstrosity into the gorge, or blast it apart with air hammers, like they did the pedestal of the Tesla sculpture?

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Cross Country skiing sign along the parkway. Have you ever seen a cross country skier on the parkway? Neither have we. Hard to ski on blacktop. Note the bolt through image on sign.

## Hudson is back and is writing an investigative book on prosecutorial misconduct

Mike Hudson, the founder of the Niagara Falls Reporter, is back with the paper after a short hiatus and disagreement with current Reporter owner Frank Parlato that Hudson claims erupted after Parlato became the first newspaper publisher in America to publicly praise Trump.

Nevertheless, after the humiliating defeat of Hillary Clinton, Hudson decided that Parlato had a point and has returned to the Reporter to join his other rather shamefaced Hillary supporter James Hufnagel.

Tony Farina also supported Hillary although rather half heartedly.

Which left only the rabid Gary Dilaura and Parlato on the side of Trump.

Hudson returns this week in these pages and has started an investigative series on the prosecutorial misconduct that has surfaced in the federal case



The talented but often irascible Mike Hudson returns to the Reporter.

Moses off of public works, reminiscent of some kind of Stalinesque purge, the Reporter thought it opportune to go for a walk down the Niagara Scenic Parkway and take some photos of some of its more scenic aspects. Enjoy.

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against Parlato. It promises to be extremely interesting. Stay tuned.

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## Feds to Cuomo: Parkway Signage out of Compliance

**James Hufnagel**

"Sign, sign, everywhere a sign. Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind," went a dopey 1970's-era song by a group called the Five Man Electrical Band, which could reflect the regulatory mindset of the Federal Highway Administration as it attempts to rein in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's latest "I Love NY" promotional campaign gimmick.

The feds say that hundreds of newly-erected highway signs statewide, advertising New York State tourism, including some on the Robert Moses Parkway as it approaches Niagara Falls State Park from north and east, cram together too much information, contribute to distracted driving and are not in compliance with federal traffic safety rules.

More specifically, "Some of the signs have non-conforming symbols, while others violate sign lettering and other standards," stated a Highway Administration spokesperson.

Back in 2012, we informed our readers about how the Cuomo administration had paid \$5 million to Madison Avenue advertising giant BBDO to reinvent the famous "I Love NY" campaign, replacing the classic heart with various other symbols of the New York tourism industry. Around the same time the governor allocated \$50 million of state budget funds



You wouldn't want to accidentally veer a foot or two off the Moses Parkway, at the entrance to the Power Project, and collide with this solid obstacle of a sign, bolted down so as to offer maximum impact.

to create and launch a series of TV commercials, supposedly to boost New York State's image nationwide, but essentially to promote his candidacy for president.

514 of the signs - at a total cost of \$1.76 million - have been installed along highways from scenic Montauk Point at the extreme end of Long Island up to Plattsburgh on the Canadian border and

evenly spread across the state. If our math is correct, the ten new signs on the Moses Parkway cost taxpayers approximately \$34,241, and according to published reports, that doesn't include labor.

The standard configuration is to first confront the motorist with what's been termed a "motherboard" sign, featuring the banner "The New York State Expe-

rience" above four ads for "I Love NY", history, food and beverage and NYS Parks. The sign also highlights a mobile app symbol and website address. Very busy.

The motherboard is followed by four signs in succession down the road "Burma Shave"-style, named after the iconic signs that appeared on the nation's highways from the 1920's until 1966, each amplifying one of the same four themes on the motherboard.

As it is, the pattern's reversed on the north Parkway, with the four signs jarringly just off the Power Project, while the motherboard, which appears most in violation of federal law, well past Whirlpool State Park, perhaps a concession by the state made to preclude the possibility of being blamed for yet another unfortunate traffic accident in the vicinity of the Power Vista.

While politicians like Dyster and Ceretto and the docile population of Niagara Falls always fall in line with anything and everything the state wants to do on the vast and valuable turf that comprises 80% of the city's waterfront - including an upgrade of the south Moses Parkway, massive expansion of parking, food service and gift shop facilities in Niagara Falls State Park where eight million tourists visit and spend their money every year, and failure to deliver on Ni-

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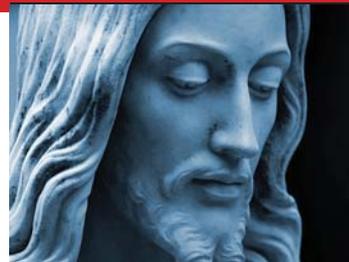
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"Motherboard" signs on the Robert Moses Parkway are deemed by the Federal Highway Administration to be distracting and in violation of federal regulations.

New York," reports the NY Post, "State officials say they lacked the equipment to make and install the signs fast enough themselves." Because when King Cuomo decrees that those signs go up before the 4th of July, it better damn well happen by then.

As it stands now, in keeping with past practice with regards to anything that's ever happened here with Niagara Falls waterfront, including the south Parkway upgrade, the Niagara Falls State Park Landscape Improvements plan, the back and forth over the disputed location of the State Parks Police barracks and Glynn's new Maid of the Mist Winter Headquarters in the Niagara Gorge, the Cuomo administration and the Federal Highway Administration are presently huddled in secret talks where they will reach a compromise on the disputed signage, and subsequently let us know what they decide.



"Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, by whom "all things were made," but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

St Francis of Assisi

agara Gorge reclamation and remediation by leaving the north parkway completely intact - it appears some local governments elsewhere in New York State were more protective of their scenic areas, and gave significant pushback to the DOT with regards to the obtrusive signage.

The signs were either removed or significantly scaled down in places like Montauk, Port Jefferson and Orient Point as the result of complaints from both the public and their local officials.

On the other hand, having just visited Niagara Falls a few months ago to announce the renaming of the Moses Parkway the "Niagara Scenic Parkway" to the immense gratification of Dyster, Ceretto and State Senator Robert Ortt, Gov. Cuomo's garish new highway signs just serve to make a mockery of that name change, to the silence of our so-called leaders.

"The goal is to get people who are on the roads off the roads and into communities and fostering and promoting the economy of the State of New York," Cuomo defended in a speech, but as it turns out, "promoting the economy" took a back seat, since the signs weren't even manufactured here in New York.

"(T)he company that made the signs, Interstate SignWays, is in Arkansas, not

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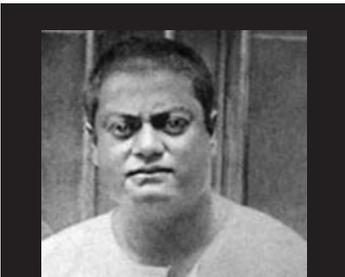
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The remedy for weakness is not brooding over weakness, but thinking of strength...  
~ Swami Vivekananda

## Lewiston Tour of Homes Was a Historic Success

### Matt Cole

Lewiston has long been considered, by locals, to be the Hamptons of Niagara County. The quaint shops of Center Street, the elegant pre-Victorian era homes. It's the combination of the historic and modern worlds that the community works so hard to protect and maintain. At the forefront of these efforts is the Historic Association of Lewiston, led by their president, Zack Collister. Their focus currently is the preservation of The Lewiston Museum, originally known as St Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1835.

"We have a lot of great history here. We even had the TV show Mysteries at the Museum film here," said Collister, "The Tour of Homes is to raise funds for this building."

Last weekend, Collister and his team, along with Melissa Morinello of Sparkle Events, came together to put on The 12th Annual Lewiston Tour of Homes, a tour of five of Lewiston's splendid homes brilliantly decorated for Christmas.

As tour buses made a continuous loop from house to house, it seemed that more than a thousand holiday tour goers were on hand to see the homes on tour this year.

For those of you who missed the event, and a chance to see some of the Christmas flair Lewiston has to offer - and perhaps use in your own holiday decor, the Reporter took the tour.

One of the crown jewels of this year's event is the sprawling hilltop Barton House,

originally built in 1807 and rebuilt in 1815, decorated by Decor by Lebec.

Just across Center Street is the historic Fairbanks Mansion, now separated into seven glorious apartments.

Other stops included two new builds, Villa Falsetti and the Garden Estate, and a beautifully decorated mid-century ranch affectionately called The Cozy Christmas Cottage.

"We've also added bonus stops this year at St Jude's Shrine and The Barton Hill Hotel," said Collister. "The whole community comes together to make this happen each year. In fact we have to cap tickets each day at a thousand people. But, most of all we could not do this without our corporate sponsors."

The Barton Hill Hotel, DiCamillo's Bakery, Wegmans, The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute, Mark Cerrone Construction, Mount Saint Mary's Hospital, and Elderwood are just some of the many companies that open their hearts and check books to this wonderful event.

If you are one of the many people who cannot wait another year for the Tour of Homes, you can look for the sister event this summer, The Lewiston Tour of Kitchens on June 3rd and 4th of 2017.

The event features five of Lewiston's finest kitchens. Each kitchen features professionally designed tablescapes and is paired with a local restaurant and chef on hand to prepare and share some of their recipes.

Also be sure to visit The Lewiston Museum at 469 Plain Street any time of the year.



Villa Falsetti was a big hit with visitors who went on the Lewiston Tour of Homes last week.



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## Niagara Falls Jokes



The Cozy Christmas Cottage warmed the hearts of all with holiday cheer.



Once called the "Ship Captain's House," the 1815 mansion was the private home of Fairbanks, who also is credited with the construction of the village's Frontier House on Center Street.



The Lewiston Museum, currently operated by the Historical Association of Lewiston, was built as St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the cornerstone being laid in 1835. The first rector of this historic church was the Reverend Rufus Murray, posted to Lewiston as a missionary in 1838. During this time, he documented that he provided burial services for at least three "strangers", the euphemism for passengers on the Underground Railroad. The two adults and one "child of a stranger" were buried in unmarked graves in the Lewiston Cemetery, presumably to foil slave-catching agents and prevent exposure of the abolitionist activities of the minister and his congregation.

According to the National Weather Service, the first lake effect snow event of the season will probably start today or tomorrow. Lake effect snowstorms have in the past dumped several feet of snow on the area. It's been predicted that when this snowfall is finally over, everything's going to be whiter than Lewiston!

\*\*\*

Yo' mama so stupid, she thought this week's Blizzard was a new item at Dairy Queen!

\*\*\*



Many years ago Paul Dyster as a little boy was sitting on Santa's lap, and Santa asked him what he wanted for Christmas.

"A toy train set!" shouted the gleeful young lad.

"I just might be able to instruct my elves to include a brand new shiny train set on my sleigh for a certain good boy in Niagara Falls – was there anything else you wanted?" asked Santa.

"Yes!" said the exuberant lad, "A \$43 million International Railway Station and Intermodal Transportation Center to put it in!"

\*\*\*

A Niagara Falls resident posted on Facebook about the Syrian refugees

who may soon make Niagara Falls their home, and wrote that he thinks it really important that they learn English right away so that they can fit in better. One of his friends commented, "That's the gooddest idea I've heard yet!"

\*\*\*

It was Christmas Eve, and a Syrian refugee couple, with the wife nine months pregnant, arrived in Niagara Falls and tried to get a room at the new Hamister Hotel.

The desk clerk looked at his computer screen and said, "Sorry, no room. The hotel is full."

The Syrian man, said, "But your sign says that you have vacancies."

The desk clerk stammered and then said curtly, "You know that we do not admit Syrians. Now if you will try the other side of town."

The Syrian man stated, "I'll have you know I converted from Islam to your religion."

The desk clerk said, "Really? Then let me give you a little test. How was Jesus born?"

He replied, "He was born to a virgin named Mary in a little town called Bethlehem"

"Very good," replied the Hamister Hotel clerk. "Tell me more."

"He was born in a manger."

"That's right," said the hotel clerk, "And why was he born in a manger?"

The Syrian said loudly, "Because a friend like you at the hotel wouldn't give a Syrian couple a room for the night!"



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Sat., Dec 10, 2016

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Auction Start: 10AM  
35+/- Parcels Available

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216 Payne Ave, North  
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(City Hall Council  
Chambers)

**CITY OF LOCKPORT**

Tue., Dec 13, 2016

Registration: 5PM  
Auction Start: 6PM  
25+/- Parcels Available

Sale Location:  
1 Locks Plaza,  
Lockport, NY 14094  
(Municipal Building)