



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Executive's Office

Jason T. Garnar, Broome County Executive

EMBARGOED until February 26, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

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Power of Partnerships: State of Broome County

County Executive Jason Garnar Delivers 2019 State of the County Address

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County Executive Jason Garnar delivered his 2019 State of the County address tonight at the Ansko Lofts in Binghamton. The theme for Garnar's address was the "Power of Partnerships."

"The redevelopment of the Ansko Camera Factory building is the prime example of how the power of partnerships is revitalizing Broome County. The county has made so much progress over the last few years and none of that would have been possible without a team approach," said Garnar, "Our local economy is improving, and our county finances are stronger. We're developing responsible budgets, working to grow our fund balance and producing a tax cut for the first time in 14 years."

Highlights of Garnar's address included:

- Broome County Veterans Services Agency project
 - Broome County is purchasing property in the Town of Binghamton and creating a one-stop shop complex for veterans' services and programs.
- Elimination of blighted properties for development projects and new housing initiative
 - Demolition of 1 N Page in the Town of Union and Endicott Inn in Endicott
 - Partnership with The Agency on rehabilitating homes, block by block
- Workforce Development
 - Broome-Tioga Workforce is expanding its Opportunity Impact Program for advanced manufacturing and CDL. The county has also launched Operation Clean Sweep through Broome County DSS.
- Public Safety System Upgrade
 - Largest county public safety initiative in decades. Upgrade of radio communications system to bring it to 21st century (some equipment is from 1970s). Project will impact 55 first responder agencies in Broome County.

The County Executive also highlighted his program, BroomeINCLUDES, created to help make Broome County more inclusive for individuals with disabilities. He invited an American Sign

Language interpreter to his State of the County, something he stated he will have at his major addresses.

Garnar also noted that Broome County is leading the way in fighting the heroin epidemic with a drastic decrease in fatal overdoses in 2018. He acknowledged the collaborative work of treatment providers, law enforcement officials, grassroots organizations, District Attorney, Health Department and school districts.

The County Executive also touted the county's strong working relationship with municipal leaders from his Small Community Grant Fund to the demolition of blighted properties through the city of Binghamton and the Broome County Land Bank.

This was County Executive Garnar's third State of the County address as Broome County Executive. Again, this year, he and his staff will be taking the State of the County on the road to municipalities in Broome County. The full schedule will be released this week.