OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: April 15, 2016

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

MINER UNVEILS NEWEST INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTED BY CITY OF SYRACUSE: STREET QUALITY IDENTIFICATION DEVICE (SQUID)

SQUID Currently Being Deployed by Syracuse DPW Will Measure Quality of Roads In City Neighborhoods, Allowing City Officials To More Efficiently Plan Short Term Maintenance and Long Term Repairs

Miner: The City Will Now Be Able to Better Plan for Repairs and Use Resources More Efficiently

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today announced the implementation of new Street Quality Inspection Devices, known as SQUID, a technology pioneered by ARGO Labs. These road quality sensors will be deployed over the coming weeks by the Department of Public Works (DPW) to perform a comprehensive study of City streets.

"The City of Syracuse is pleased to partner with ARGO Labs in deploying SQUID devices on the streets. Using this new technology, the City will be better able to proactively fill potholes and perform a digital inspection of the quality of City streets," said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. "Through this innovation, the City will now be able to better plan for repairs and use resources more efficiently. Our departments are working together diligently to use new ideas to address these longstanding challenges faced by City government."

"ARGO Labs helps deliver a civic data science by rapidly prototyping and building with cities. To this end, we are very excited to partner with the City of Syracuse via their Innovation Team," said **Varun Adibhatla,** Project Director of ARGO Labs. "Using device, data and decision-making the Street Quality Identification Device or SQUID for short is a low-cost, reusable, and scalable approach to allow the City attain a thorough understanding of street quality. To this end, we hope that the data can empower Syracuse to be not only more responsive, but also proactive

by anticipating street quality issues. ARGO Labs thanks the City of Syracuse and its active leadership for the opportunity and embracing a culture of innovation to bring about a new, 21st century, data-driven approach to fixing city problems."

DPW trucks outfitted with SQUID will drive the entire street grid of the City of Syracuse to conduct a PILOT study of the current condition of roads. SQUID is built with a small, affordable computer which can conduct street quality surveys by combining data from an accelerometer to measure ride quality and a camera to photograph the potholes, cracks and other street defects so that problems can be prioritized and fixed.

The new SQUID devices will give the City the opportunity to facilitate digital inspection for City streets. It supplements the existing road rating process and allows the DPW to more frequently perform an analysis of the City's roads.

The SQUID system was part of the research being done by the Office of Innovation in partnership with the DPW. The i-team's first area of focus, at the direction of the Mayor, has been to study new solutions to infrastructure.

The Office of Innovation, announced in December 2014, was made possible with a three year, $1.35 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Syracuse was one of fourteen cities selected in 2014 as part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Innovation Teams (i-teams) program. The program aims to improve the capacity of City Halls to effectively design and implement new approaches that improve citizens' lives. Grant funds allow mayors to hire and fund i-teams for up to three years. These teams function as in-house innovation consultants, moving from one mayoral priority to the next. Using Bloomberg Philanthropies' tested Innovation Delivery approach, i-teams help agency leaders and staff go through a data-driven process to assess problems, generate responsive new interventions, develop partnerships, and deliver measurable results.

###